

IOWA

LEAVES



Clara B. Rouse



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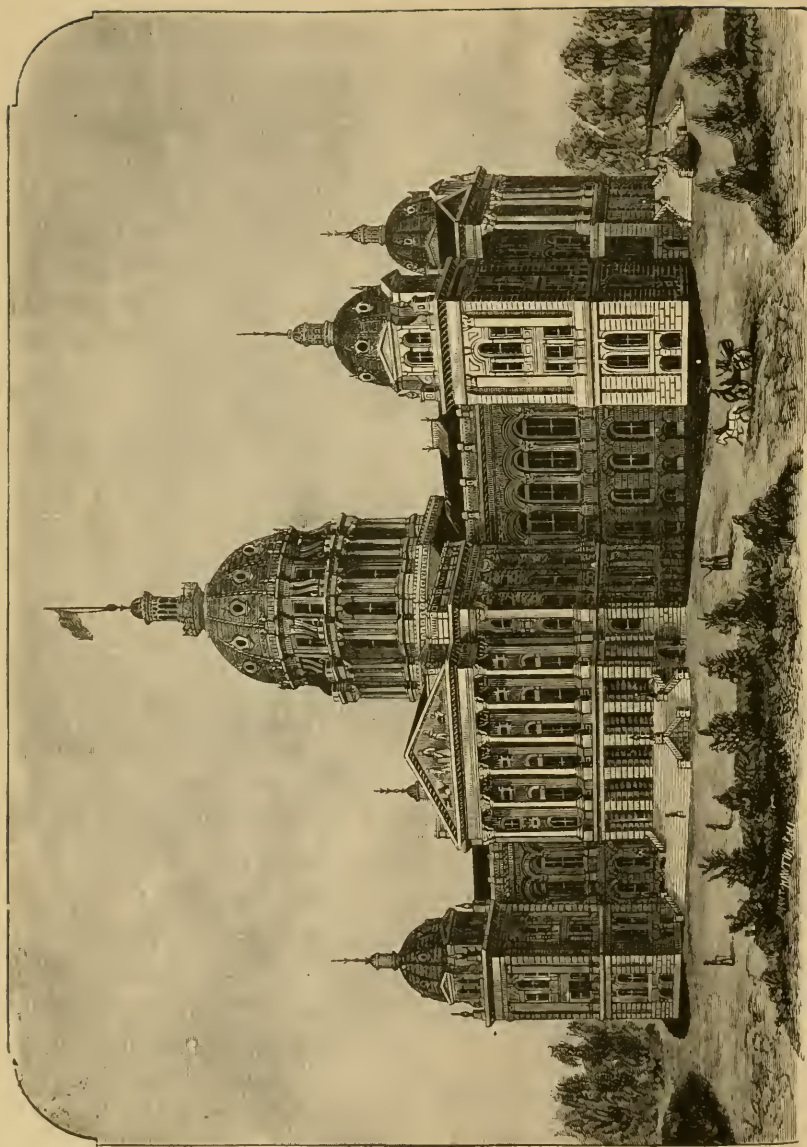
Book 754











IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES.

# IOWA LEAVES

## SIX CHAPTERS

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BY

CLARA B. ROUSE

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"Some said, 'John, print it'; others said, not so.  
Some said, it might do good; others said, no."

—*John Bunyan*

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TO  
THE STATE OF IOWA,  
KING BLUE GRASS, KING CORN  
AND KING COAL  
THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
BY THE  
AUTHORESS  
CLARA B. ROUSE

Three kings there are to rule the earth,  
And mightier none could be;  
Howe'er he strives, no man alive  
From their control is free.  
And one is yellow, and one is black,  
And one is green, we know;  
The yellow one is the youngest one,  
But not the strongest, though.  
By these and theirs, the world's affairs  
They vigorously control.  
And the names these mighty monarchs bear  
Are Corn, Blue Grass and Coal.

## INTRODUCTION.

While it is the privilege of many to visit and observe different portions of our country—as traveling has greatly increased in late years, and as facilities are multiplied, is likely to increase still more—yet it is chiefly confined to certain classes by no means numerically large. There are others who are cut off from this species of amusement and information—they have neither the requisite leisure nor sufficient wealth, perhaps; many also are unfitted for traveling by reason of habit or disposition, new objects would neither please nor profit them. But for such a privation is there no indemnity? Must they who cannot visit places of interest and amusement, and view with their own eyes, the varieties of pleasurable objects within our own State, always remain in ignorance? Happily this is not the severe condition of their being. It is not necessary to forego the pleasure and advantage of a varied and extensive knowledge of the world; they may enjoy it at home and in every season of the year, even amidst the frosts and confinements of winter. They may travel and view the interesting points of our State described in this book, and never quit the fireside or porticoes of their own homes. If it be necessary to explain to our readers how this can be done, we will begin by supposing that the long evenings of winter are at hand, the storm rages abroad, the wind howls around your dwellings, but you are quietly seated by your comfortable fire, and you wish some amusing and yet pro-

## INTRODUCTION.

fitable employment in which to pass away the hours. We propose then to make a traveling excursion, a sort of tarry at home journey, or trip throughout the State of Iowa.

We will endeavor by giving a condensed, yet sufficiently extensive history of the State, from the first settlement down to the present time. Early reminiscences of the pioneers, their customs and mode of living, with short sketches of adventure; the discovery of the great Father of Waters that forms the eastern boundary, the enterprise and genius of our present citizens, soil and climate, railroad facilities, our manufactures, coal mines, products of our soil, with full and complete description of the Blue Grass regions of southwest Iowa, and the great Blue Grass palaces of 1889 and '90, at Creston, Union county, the Coal Palace regions of southeast Iowa and Black Diamond Palace at Ottumwa in Wapello county, the Corn Palace regions of northwest Iowa and Corn Palace at Sioux City, reminiscences of northeast and central Iowa, and description of the capitol city Des Moines, and other places of interest in our state.

We have been so far encouraged by the patronage vouchsafed, that this work has been extended far beyond the scope originally intended. Our solicitude for the success of the enterprise in a business sense was natural, but has not been our sole solicitude.

We have likewise intensely desired to make the work reliable, full and attractive, and thereby to merit the public favor which the people of the state have extended to us.

In presenting the work to our many hundred readers, we have the satisfaction of knowing that they are of sufficient intelligence to appreciate merit when found, and further believing that errors will be criticised with the understanding



## INTRODUCTION.

that book-making, like all other kinds of labor, has its peculiar vicissitudes.

We have been materially aided in the preparation of this work by some persons in the state, who made no claim for compensation, and we expect no reward except that which comes from consciousness of having aided in a worthy enterprise, and deserve the thanks of the citizens in the counties where they reside.

As self-knowledge is the most important, and a knowledge of our own country is to be preferred to that of all others, we will take a survey of ourselves, and when you have done this, if you become weary, you may retreat and we will endeavor to enlist some one else to accompany us. It is our purpose, however, to make the circuit so interesting, that instead of leaving us we expect you will cling the closer the longer we travel together. Should any of our readers not appreciate the work, the time will come when their children will.

Without further preface we will commence our review of the greatest state in the Union—Iowa.

CLARA B. ROUSE.



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PART FIRST

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# IOWA LEAVES

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GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH OF THE STATE  
AND FIRST SETTLEMENTS BY THE WHITES.  
DRIVING OUT THE INDIANS, ETC.





# IOWA LEAVES.

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DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH OF THE STATE AND FIRST SETTLEMENT BY THE WHITES.

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## CHAPTER I.

Iowa is one of the most beautiful states in the Union, and is bounded on the north by the state of Minnesota, on the east by Illinois and Wisconsin, on the south by Missouri and on the west by Nebraska and Dakota, and is about 300 miles in length, east and west, and a little over 200 miles in breadth, north and south, having nearly the figure of a rectangular parallelogram.

Its northern boundary is the parallel of 43 degrees 30 minutes, separating it from the state of Minnesota. Its southern limit is nearly on the line of 40 degrees 31 minutes from the point where this parallel crosses the Des Moines river westward. From this point to the southeast corner of the state, a distance of about thirty miles, the Des Moines river forms the boundary line between Iowa and Missouri.

The two great rivers of the North American continent form the east and west boundaries proper, except that portion of the western boundary adjoining the state of Dakota.

The Big Sioux river, from its mouth two miles above Sioux City, intersects the parallel of 43 degrees 30 minutes.

These limits embrace an area of 55,045 square miles or 35,228,800 acres. When it is understood that all this vast extent of surface, except that which is occupied by the rivers and lakes and peat beds of the northern counties, is susceptible of the highest cultivation, some idea may be formed of the immense agricultural resources of the state.

Iowa is nearly as large as England, and twice as large as Scotland, but, when we consider the relative area of surface which may be made to yield the wants of man, those countries of the old world will bear no comparison with Iowa. The surface of the state is remarkably uniform, rising to nearly the same general altitude. There are no mountains, and yet but little of the surface is level or flat. The whole state presents a succession of gentle elevations and depressions, with some bold and picturesque bluffs along the principal streams. The western portion of the state is generally more elevated than the eastern, the northwestern part being the highest. Nature could not have provided a more perfect system of drainage, and, at the same time, leave the country so completely adapted to all the purposes of agriculture.

Looking at the map of Iowa we see two systems of streams or rivers, running nearly at right angles with each other. The streams which discharge their waters into the Mississippi flow from the northwest to the southeast, while those of the other system flow toward the southwest, and empty into the Missouri. The former drain about three-fourths of the state, and the latter the remaining one-fourth.

The watershed dividing the two systems of streams represents the highest portions of the state, and gradually descends as you follow its course from northwest to southeast.

Low water mark in the Missouri river at Council Bluffs

is about 425 feet above low water mark in the Mississippi at Davenport. At the crossing of the summit or watershed, 245 miles west of Davenport, the elevation is about 960 feet above the Mississippi. The Des Moines river, at the city of Des Moines, has an elevation of 227 feet above the Mississippi at Davenport, and is 198 feet lower than the Missouri at Council Bluffs. The elevation of the eastern border of the state at MacGregor is about 624 feet above the level of the sea, while the highest elevation in the northwest portion of the state is 1,400 feet above the level of the sea. In addition to the grand watershed mentioned above as dividing the waters of the Mississippi and Missouri, there are between the principal streams elevations commonly called "divides," which are drained by numerous streams of a smaller size tributary to the rivers. The valleys along the streams have a deep rich soil, but are scarcely more fertile than many portions of those undulating prairie "divides."

The rivers of Iowa are divided into two systems or classes—those flowing into the Mississippi, and those flowing into the Missouri. The Mississippi river, the largest on the continent, and one of the largest in the world, washes the entire eastern border of the state, and is, most of the year, navigable for a large class of steamers. The only serious obstruction to steamers of the largest size is what is known as the Lower Rapids, just above the mouth of the Des Moines. The government of the United States has constructed a canal or channel around these rapids on the Iowa side of the river, a work which will prove of immense advantage to the commerce of Iowa for all time to come. The principal rivers which flow through the interior of the state, east of the watershed, are the Des Moines, Skunk and Iowa. One of the largest rivers in the state is Red



INDIAN ENCAMPMENT ON THE MISSISSIPPI.



Cedar, which rises in Minnesota, and, flowing in a southeasterly direction, joins its waters with Iowa river in Louisa county, only about thirty miles from its mouth, that portion below the junction retaining the name of Iowa river, although above the junction it is really the smaller stream. The Des Moines is the largest interior river of the state, and rises in a group or chain of lakes in Minnesota, not far from the Iowa border. It really has its source in two principal branches, called East and West Des Moines, which, after flowing about seventy miles through the northern portion of the state, converge to their junction in the southern part of Humboldt county. The Des Moines receives a number of large tributaries, and flows from northwest to southeast not less than 300 miles through Iowa, and drains over 10,000 square miles of territory. At an early day steamboats, at certain seasons of the year, navigated this river as far up as the "Raccoon Forks," and a large grant of land was made by Congress to the state for the purpose of improving its navigation. The land was subsequently diverted to the construction of the Des Moines Valley railroad.

The next river above the Des Moines is Skunk, which has its source in Hamilton county, north of the center of the state. It traverses a southeast course, having two principal branches, their aggregate length being about 450 miles. They drain about 8,000 square miles of territory, and afford many excellent mill sites.

The next is the Iowa river, which drains about 12,000 square miles of territory. The "Wapsie" furnishes splendid water-power for machinery, while the Maquoketa drains about 3,000 miles of rich territory.

The Turkey river drains about 2,000 square miles. Upper Iowa river passes through a narrow, but picturesque and beau-

tiful valley, affording ample water-power for machinery at numerous points.

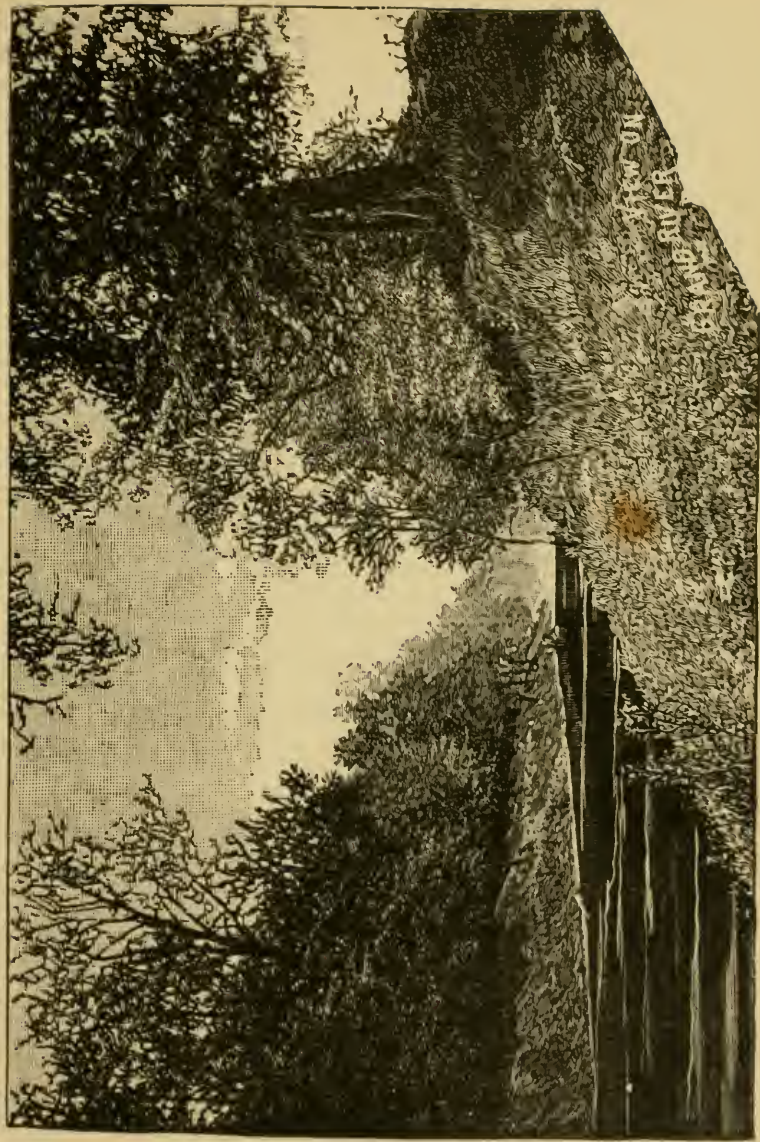
Having mentioned the rivers which drain the eastern three-fourths of the state, we will now cross the great "watershed" to the Missouri and its tributaries.

The Big Sioux river empties into the Missouri about two miles above Sioux City, and drains about 1,000 square miles of Iowa territory. The Floyd river flows through a rich and beautiful valley, and drains about 15,000 square miles. The Little Sioux river is one of the most important streams of northwestern Iowa. It rises in the vicinity of Spirit and Okoboji lakes, near the Minnesota line, and meanders through various counties, a distance of nearly 300 miles, and, with its tributaries, drains not less than 5,000 square miles. Boyer river is the next stream of considerable size below the Little Sioux—about 150 miles in length—and flows through a rich and lovely valley. The Nishnabotna river empties into the Missouri some twenty miles below the southwest corner of the state. It has three principal branches, with an aggregate length of 350 miles. These streams drain about 5,000 square miles of southwestern Iowa. They flow through valleys of unsurpassed beauty and fertility, and furnish good water-power at various points.

The southern portion of the state is drained by several streams that flow into the Missouri; the most important of these are Chariton, Grand, Platte, One Hundred and Two, and the three Nodaways—East, West and Middle. All of these afford water-power for machinery, and present splendid valleys of rich farming lands.

We have above only mentioned the streams that have been designated as rivers, but there are many other streams of great





SCENE ON GRAND RIVER.

importance and value to different portions of the state, draining the country, furnishing mill sites and adding to the variety and beauty of the scenery. So admirable is the natural drainage of almost the entire state that the farmer who has not a stream of living water on his premises is an exception to the general rule. In some of the northern counties of Iowa there are many small but beautiful lakes, some of which we shall notice; the following are among the most noted of the lakes in northern Iowa: Clear lake, Rice lake, Twin lakes, Owl lake, Lake Gertrude, Elm lake, Wall lake, Swan lake, Storm lake, Okoboji and Spirit lakes. Nearly all of these are deep and clear, abounding in many varieties of excellent fish, which are caught abundantly by the settlers at all proper seasons of the year. All of them, except Storm lake, have fine bodies of timber on their borders. Okoboji is the most beautiful of all the northern lakes in Iowa. Walter Scott could not invest the historic lakes of Scotia with more of the wild beauty of scenery, suggestive of poetry and romance, than we here find around the loveliest of Iowa lakes.

The eastern half of the state contains a larger proportion of timber than the western. The following are the leading varieties of timber: White, black and burr oak, black walnut, butternut, hickory, hard and soft maple, cherry, red and white elm, ash, linn, hackberry, birch, honey locust, cottonwood, quaking asp and sycamore. Groves of red cedar also prevail, especially along Iowa and Cedar rivers, and a few isolated pine trees are scattered along the bluffs of some of the streams in the northern part of the state.

#### CLIMATE.

Prof. Parvin, who has devoted great attention to the climatology of Iowa, in a series of observations made by him at Mus-



SPIRIT LAKE.



catine from 1839 to 1859, inclusive, and at Iowa City from 1860 to 1870, inclusive, deduces the following general results: That the months of November and March are essentially *winter* months, their average temperature rising but a few degrees above the freezing point. Much of the former month is indeed mild and pleasant, but in it usually comes the first cold spell, followed generally by mild weather, while in March the farmer is often enabled to commence his spring plowing. September has usually a summer temperature, and proves a ripening season for the fall crops, upon which the farmer may rely with safety if the spring has been at all backward. May has much more the character of a spring month than that of summer, and "May Day" is not often greeted with a profusion of flowers. The average temperature of May during thirty-two years was 59.06 degrees, while that of September was 63.37 degrees. Prof. Parvin states that during thirty-five years the mercury rose to 100 degrees only once within the region of his observations in Iowa, and that was during the summer of 1870. It seldom rises above 95 degrees, or falls lower than 15 degrees below zero. The highest temperature, with very few exceptions, occurs in the month of August, while July is the hottest month, as indicated by the mean temperature of the summer months. January is the coldest month, and in this only once in thirty-two years did the mercury fall to 30 degrees below zero. The prevailing winds are those of a westerly direction, not for the year alone, but for the several months of the year, except June, July, August and September. August is the month in which the greatest amount of rain falls, and in January the least. The greatest fall of rain in any one year was in 1851—94.49 inches, and the least in 1854—23.35 inches. The greatest fall of snow for any one year was in 1868—61.97

inches. The least was in 1850—7.90 inches. The earliest fall of snow during twenty-two years from 1848 to 1869, inclusive, was October 17, 1859, and the latest April 29, 1851. The greatest fall was December 21, 1848—20.50 inches. Rain usually occurs in each of the winter months.

#### SOILS.

Dr. White has separated the soils of Iowa into three general divisions, viz.: the drift, bluff and alluvial. The drift soil occupies the greater portion of the state, the bluff next, and the alluvial the least. The drift is derived primarily from the disintegration of rocks, to a considerable extent perhaps from those of Minnesota, which were subject to violent glacial action during the glacial epoch. This soil is excellent, and is generally free from coarse drift materials, especially near the surface.

The bluff soil occupies an area estimated at about 5,000 square miles in the western part of the state. It has many peculiar and marked characteristics, and is believed to be lacustral in its origin. In some places the deposit is as great as 200 feet in thickness, all portions of it being equal in fertility. If this soil be taken from its lowest depth—say 200 feet below the surface—vegetation germinates and thrives as readily in it as in the surface deposit. It is of a slightly yellowish ash color, except when mixed with decaying vegetation. It is composed mainly of silica, but the silicious matter is so finely pulverized that the naked eye is unable to perceive anything like sand in its composition. The bluffs along the Missouri river in the western part of the state are composed of this material.

The alluvial soils are the “bottom” lands along the river and smaller streams. They are the washings of other soils

mixed with decayed vegetable matter. They vary somewhat in character and fertility, but the best of them are regarded as the most fertile soils in the state. As to the localities occupied by each of these different soils, it may be stated that the drift forms the soil of all the higher plains and wood lands of the state, except a belt along the western border, which is occupied by the bluff soil, or bluff deposit, as it is generally called. The alluvial occupies the low lands, both prairie and timber along the streams. It may be remarked that the alluvial soil composing the broad belt of "bottom" along the Missouri partakes largely of the bluff soil, owing to continued washings from the high lands or bluffs adjacent.

#### ECONOMIC GEOLOGY.

Every year is adding to our knowledge and attesting the importance and value of our vast coal deposits. In some unknown age of the past, long before the history of our race began, nature, by some wise process, made a bountiful provision for the time when, in the order of things, it should become necessary for civilized man to take possession of these broad rich prairies. As an equivalent for the lack of trees, she quietly stored away beneath the soil those wonderful carboniferous treasures for the use and comfort of man at the proper time. The increased demand for coal has, in many portions of the state, led to improved methods of mining, so that in many counties the business has become a lucrative and important one, especially where railroads furnish the means of transportation. The coalfield of the state embraces an area of at least 20,000 square miles, and coal is successfully mined in about thirty counties, embracing a territory larger than the state of Massachusetts. Among the most important coal producing counties

may be mentioned Appanoose, Boone, Davis, Jefferson, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Van Buren, Wapello, Lucas and Webster. Within the last few years many discoveries of new deposits have been made, and counties not previously numbered among the coal counties of the state are now yielding rich returns to the miner. Among them may be mentioned the counties of Boone, Dallas, Hamilton, Hardin and Van Buren. A vein of coal of excellent quality seven feet in thickness has been opened, and is now being successfully worked about five miles southeast of Fort Dodge, in Webster county. Large quantities of coal are shipped from that point to Dubuque and the towns along the line of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad. A few years ago it was barely known that some coal existed in Boone county, as indicated by exposures along the Des Moines river, and it is only within the last few years that the coal-mines of Moingona have furnished the vast supplies shipped along the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, both east and west.

The great productive coalfield of Iowa is embraced chiefly within the valley of the Des Moines river and its tributaries, extending up the valley from Lee county nearly to the north line of Webster county. Within the coalfield embraced by this valley deep mining is nowhere necessary. The Des Moines and its larger tributaries have generally cut their channels down through the coal measure strata.

The coal of Iowa is of the class known as the bituminous, and is equal in quality and value to coal of the same class in other parts of the world. The veins which have so far been worked are from three to eight feet in thickness, but we do not have to dig from 1,000 to 2,000 feet to reach the coal, as miners are obliged to do in some countries. But little coal has in this state been raised from a depth greater than 100 feet.

## BUILDING STONE.

There is no scarcity of good building stone to be found along nearly all the streams east of the Des Moines river, and along that stream from its mouth up to the north line of Humboldt county. Some of the counties west of the Des Moines, as Cass and Madison, as well as most of the southern counties of the state, are supplied with good building stone. Building stone of peculiarly fine quality is quarried at and near the following places: Keosauqua, Van Buren county; Mt. Pleasant, Henry county; Fairfield, Jefferson county; Ottumwa, Wapello county; Winterset, Madison county; Fort Dodge, Webster county; Springvale and Dakota, Humboldt county; Marshalltown, Marshall county; Orford, Tama county; Vinton, Benton county; Charles City, Floyd county; Mason City, Cerro Gordo county; Mitchell and Osage, Mitchell county; Anamoca, Jones county; Iowa Falls, Hardin county; Hampton, Franklin county, and at nearly all points along the Mississippi river. In some places, as in Marshall and Tama counties, several species of marble are found, which are susceptible of the finest finish, and are very beautiful.

## LIME.

Good material for the manufacture of quicklime is found in abundance in nearly all parts of the state. So abundant is limestone, suitable for the manufacture of quicklime, that it is needless to mention any particular locality as possessing superior advantages in furnishing this useful building material.

## LEAD.

Long before the permanent settlement of Iowa by the whites, lead was mined at Dubuque by Julien Dubuque and others, and the business is still carried on successfully. From



4,000,000 to 6,000,000 pounds of ore have been smelted annually at the Dubuque mines, yielding from 68 to 70 per cent. of lead. So far as known, the lead deposits of Iowa that may be profitably worked are confined to a belt four or five miles in width along the Mississippi above and below the city of Dubuque.

#### GYPSUM.

One of the finest and purest deposits of gypsum known in the world exists at Fort Dodge in this state. It is confined to an area of about six by three miles on both sides of the Des Moines river, and is found to be from twenty-five to thirty feet in thickness. The main deposit is of uniform gray color, but large masses of almost pure white (resembling alabaster) have been found imbedded in the main deposits. The quantity of this article is practically inexhaustible, and the time will certainly come when it will be a source of wealth to that part of the state.

#### SPRING AND WELL WATER.

As before stated, the surface of Iowa is generally drained by the rolling or undulating character of the country, and the numerous streams, large and small. This fact might lead some to suppose that it might be difficult to procure good spring or well water for domestic use. Such, however, is not the case, for good pure well water is easily obtained all over the state, even on the highest prairies.

It is rarely necessary to dig more than thirty feet deep to find an abundance of that most indispensable element, good water. Along the streams are found many springs breaking out from the banks, affording a constant supply of pure water. As a rule, it is necessary to dig deeper for well water in the timber portions of the state than on the prairies. Nearly

all the spring and well waters of the state contain a small proportion of lime, as they do in the eastern and middle states. There are some springs which contain mineral properties, similar to the springs often resorted to by invalids and others in the state. In Davis county there are some "salt springs," as they are commonly called, the water being found to contain a considerable amount of common salt, sulphuric acid and other mineral ingredients. Mineral waters are found in different parts of the state. No one need apprehend any difficulty about finding in all parts of Iowa an abundant supply of good wholesome water.

•

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

"The first white men who are known to have set their feet upon the soil of Iowa were James Marquette and Joliet, in 1673, as is seen in another part of this work. It was 115 years after the visit of these celebrated French *voyageurs* before any white man established a settlement, during which time several generations of the Indian tribes occupied the valleys of the beautiful rivers of Iowa, or roamed over her broad prairies. During all this time they doubtless kept alive among them the tradition of the strange black-robe chief and his pale-faced companions, who came in their canoes to see their fathers so many years before. It was likewise a Frenchman—Julien Dubuque—who had the honor of making the first white settlement.

"In 1788, having obtained permission from the Indians, he crossed the Mississippi with a small party of miners for the purpose of working lead mines at the place where the city is now located which bears his name, the lead having been discovered a short time before by the wife of Peosta, a Fox warrior. Dubuque was a native of France, but had emigrated to Canada and



INDIAN AT HOME.

become an Indian trader. While engaged in that business he reached Prairie du Chien, about the year 1785, and with two other Frenchmen laid out a village which now constitutes the northern part of that city.

"Except the mining settlement at Dubuque, the first traces of the white man in Iowa are to be found in Lee county. On March 30, 1799, Louis Honore Fesson obtained permission of the Spanish government to establish himself at the head of the rapids of the river Des Moines for the purpose of trading with the Indians. The place was at this time occupied by a half-breed Indian named Red Bird, but known among the whites as Thomas Abbott. Subsequently the town of Montrose was located on the ground where Fesson had his trading post and Red Bird his wick-e-up. Settlers of a later day have felt much interest in the existence here of some full-grown apple trees, which must have been planted by some hand long before the Black Hawk war. It has been claimed by some that they were planted by Fesson as early as the beginning of the present century. Hon. D. W. Kilbourne, one of the early settlers of Lee county, claimed that they were planted by Red Bird some time between the years 1795 and 1798. Mr. Kilbourne was personally acquainted with Red Bird, as well as with Black Hawk and other noted Indians of the Sac and Fox tribes, and from them he received what he believed to be an authentic account of the origin of the 'ancient apple orchard' at Montrose.

"It was the custom of the Indians once a year to visit St. Louis for the purpose of obtaining supplies of blankets and other articles. The half-breed Red Bird, then a young man, made his customary pilgrimage in the early spring, and on his return stopped a few days at St. Charles on the Missouri river. There a white man made him a present of about twenty small apple



trees, and gave him instructions how to plant them. Red Bird carried the trees home with him, and planted them near his wick-e-up, placing stakes around them. Nearly all of them grew, and remained to excite the wonder and curiosity of succeeding generations of white men.

"In 1809 a military post was established where Fort Madison is now located, but of course the county was not open to white settlers until after the 'Black Hawk Purchase.'"

The first settlement made at Burlington and in the vicinity was in the fall of 1832. Daniel Tothero came with his family and settled on the prairie about three miles from the Mississippi river. About the same time Samuel White with his family erected his cabin near the river at what is known as the Upper Bluff, within the limits of the present city of Burlington.

This was before the extinction of the Indian title, for that did not take place before January 1, 1833, when the government acquired the territory under what was known as the "Black Hawk Purchase." There was then a government military post at Rock Island, and some dragoons came down from that place during the next winter and drove Tothero and White over the river, burning their cabins. White remained in Illinois until the first of the following June, when the Indians surrendered possession of the "Black Hawk Purchase," and on that very day was on the ground and built his second cabin. His cabin stood on what is now Front street, between Court and High streets, in the city of Burlington. Soon after Mr. White's return his brother-in-law, Doolittle, joined him, and in 1834 they laid out the original town, naming it Burlington for the town of that name in Vermont. Thus White and Doolittle became the Romulus and Remus of one of the leading cities of Iowa.

"During the year 1834 settlements were made at various points, besides those mentioned, in what are now the counties bordering on the Mississippi river, and soon other settlements began to extend to the western limit of the "Black Hawk Purchase." The first postoffice in Iowa was established in Dubuque in 1833. Milo H. Prentice was appointed postmaster.



GOING TO CHURCH IN IOWA IN EARLY DAYS.

"The first justice of the peace was Antoine Le Claire, appointed in 1833 as 'a very suitable person to adjust the difficulties between the white settlers and the Indians still remaining

there.'” The first Methodist society in the territory was formed at Dubuque on May 18, 1834, and the first class-meeting was held June 1 of that year.

The first church bell brought into the state was in March, 1834.

The first mass of the Roman Catholic church in the territory was celebrated at Dubuque in the house of Patrick Quigly in the fall of 1833.

The first school-house in the territory was erected by the Dubuque miners in 1833.

The first Sabbath-school was organized at Dubuque early in the summer of 1834.

The first woman who came to this part of the territory with a view to permanent residence was Mrs. Noble F. Dean in the fall of 1832.

The first family that lived in this part of Iowa was that of Hosea T. Camp in 1832.

The first meeting-house was built by the Methodist Episcopal church at Dubuque in 1834.

The first newspaper in Iowa was the Dubuque *Visitor*, issued May 11, 1836. John King—afterward Judge King—was editor, and William C. Jones, printer. By the year 1836 the population had increased so that the people began to agitate for a separate territorial organization. There were also several other matters in which they were deeply interested. In November, 1837, a convention was called at Burlington to take action.

“On Monday, November 6, 1837, a convention of delegates from the several counties in that portion of Wisconsin territory west of the Mississippi river, then sometimes called Western Wisconsin, convened in the town of Burlington.

Among the principal purposes for which this convention was called were: (1) To memorialize congress for the passage of an act granting the right of pre-emption to actual settlers on government lands; (2) To memorialize congress on the subject of the attempt then being made by the state of Missouri to extend her northern boundary line so as to embrace territory claimed as being a part of Wisconsin; (3) To memorialize congress for the organization of a separate territorial government in that part of the territory of Wisconsin west of the Mississippi river."

Westward the course of empire takes its way;  
The four first acts already past,  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day—  
Time's noblest offspring is the last.

It is less than half a century since the uncivilized aborigines roamed the prairies wild and free, unfettered by the restraint of common or statutory law, and uncircumscribed by township boundaries and county lines. The transformation which has taken place in the physiognomy of the country alone is beyond the comprehension of the finite mind—luxuriant groves where was the wide-stretching prairie; cultivated fields where was the primeval forest; orchards, vineyards and gardens where waved the tall prairie grass. So marked has been the change in the physiognomy of the country that there has been a decided change in the climatology. The elements themselves seem to have taken notice of the great change, and have governed themselves accordingly. While the annual rainfall and the mean annual temperature remain the same in quantity, they are now entirely different in quality, and although imperceptible and



independent of man's will, they have nevertheless come under the same civilizing power which has changed the wilderness into a fruitful land.

Whoever has made it a business to study the "Great Northwest," as it has unfolded itself in history during the last quarter of a century, has doubtless met with ever-recurring surprises. The story of its unparalleled growth and almost phenomenal development has so often been repeated that it has become a commonplace platitude; but a careful study of the country will suggest questions which have thus far not been answered, and cannot be.

Why, for instance, have some sections filled up so rapidly, and certain cities sprung up as if by magic, while others, seemingly no less favored by nature, are still in the first stages of development? These questions cannot in all cases be answered; but whoever has studied the matter carefully cannot fail to have discovered a law of growth which is as unvarying as any law of nature. The two leading factors in the problem of municipal growth are location and character of first settlers.

The first settlers of Iowa who remain still remember the Mormons who first located across the Mississippi river and then in the western part of Iowa, created such an excitement among the scattered settlements of Iowa. Several of the most worthy of the early settlers became converts to that faith, and went west with the "Saints." It is not generally known, however, that a special effort was made for the conversion of Chief Keokuk.

While residing at Ottum-wah-nac, Keokuk received a message from the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith, in which the latter invited Keokuk, as king of the Sacs and Foxes, to a royal conference at his palace at Nauvoo on matters of the



CHIEF KEOKUK.

highest importance to their respective peoples. The invitation was accepted, and at the appointed time the king of the Sacs and Foxes, accompanied by a stately escort on ponies, wended his way to the appointed interview with the great apostle of the latter-day saints. Keokuk, as before remarked, was a man of good judgment and keen insight into human character. He was not easily led by sophistry or beguiled by flattery. The account of this interview with Smith, as given by a writer in the "Annals of Iowa," so well illustrates these traits of his character that we give it in full:

"Notice had been circulated through the country of this diplomatic interview, and quite a number of spectators attended to witness the *denouement*. The audience was given publicly in the great Mormon temple, and the respective chiefs were attended by their suites, the prophet by the dignitaries of the Mormon Church, and the Indian potentate by the high civil and military functionaries of his tribe, and the Gentiles were comfortably seated as auditors.

"The prophet opened the conference in a set speech of some length, giving Keokuk a brief history of the children of Israel, as detailed in the Bible, and dwelt forcibly upon the history of the lost tribes, and that he, the prophet of God, held a divine commission to gather them together and lead them to a land 'flowing with milk and honey.' After the prophet closed his harangue, Keokuk waited for the words of his pale-faced brother to sink deep into his mind, and in making his reply assumed the gravest attitude and most dignified demeanor. 'He would not controvert anything his brother had said about the lost and scattered condition of his race and people, and if his brother was commissioned by the Great Spirit to collect them together and lead them to a new country, it was his duty to do so.'

"But he wished to inquire about some particulars his brother had not named that were of the highest importance to him and his people. The red man was not much used to milk, and he thought they would prefer streams of water; and in the country they now were there was a good supply of honey. The points they wished to inquire into were whether the new government would pay large annuities, and whether there was plenty of whisky.

"Joe Smith saw at once that he had met his match, and that Keokuk was not the proper material with which to increase his army of dupes, and closed the interview in as amiable and pleasant a manner as possible."

According to the stipulations of the treaty of 1836, in which the Indians ceded to the United States Keokuk's reserve, the illustrious chief removed to the west, and his headquarters for a time were in Wapello county. The agency for the Indians was located at a point where is now located Agency City. At this time an effort was made to civilize the red man. Farms were opened up and two mills were erected, one on Soap creek and one on Sugar creek. A salaried agent was employed to superintend these farming operations. Keokuk's farm was located upon what is yet known as Keokuk prairie in Wapello county.

Wapello, the contemporary of Keokuk, and the inferior chief, after whom a neighboring county and county seat were named, died before the Indians were removed from the state, and thus escaped the humiliation of the scene. He, like his superior chief, was a fast friend of the whites, and wielded an immense influence among the individuals of his tribe. He presided over three tribes in the vicinity of Fort Armstrong during the time that frontier post was being erected. In 1839

he removed his village to Muscatine swamp, and then to a place near where is now located the town bearing his name. Many of the early settlers of the country remember him well, as the southern part of this county was a favorite resort for him and many members of his tribe. It was in the limits of Keokuk county that this illustrious chief died. Although he willingly united in the treaty ceding it to the whites, it was done with the clear conviction that the country would be shortly overrun, and his hunting ground ruined by the advance of pale-faces. He chose to sell rather than to be robbed, and then quietly receded with his band. Wapello died in Keokuk county in March, 1844. As provided in the terms of the treaty, he had retired beyond the Red Rock line early in 1843, and at the time of his death he was visiting some of the most favorite localities in the country, which but a year before he had relinquished.

A Mr. Romig who for some time lived near the place where Wapello died, delivered an address before a historical society, in which he gives the following pathetic account of the last days and death of the illustrious chief:

“As the swallow returns to the place where last she had built her nest—cruelly destroyed by the ruthless hands of some rude boy—or as a mother would return to the empty crib where once had reposed her innocent babe in the sweet embrace of sleep, and weep for the treasure she had once possessed, so Wapello mourned for the hunting grounds he had been forced to leave behind, and longed to roam over the broad expanse again. It was in the month of March; heavy winter had begun to shed her mantle of snow; the sun peeped forth through the fleeting clouds; the woodchuck emerged from his subterranean retreat to greet the morning breeze, and all nature seemed to rejoice at the prospect of returning spring. The old chief felt



the exhilarating influence of reviving nature, and longed again for the hunting excursion to the scenes of his former exploits.



INDIANS HUNTING THE BUFFALO.

But, alas! the poor old man was not long destined to mourn over his misfortunes. While traveling over the beautiful

prairies, or encamped in the picturesque groves that he was once wont to call his own, disease fastened upon his vitals, and the chief lay prostrate in his lodge. How long the burning fever raged and racked in his brain, or who it was that applied the cooling draught to his parched lips, tradition has failed to inform us, but this we may fairly presume, that his trusty followers were deeply distressed at the sufferings of their chief, whom they loved, and administered all the comforts in their power to alleviate his sufferings; but all would not avail. Grim death had crossed his path, touched an icy finger to his brow and marked him for his own. Human effort to save could avail nothing. Time passed, and with it the life of Wapello."

Keokuk, Appanoose and nearly all the leading men among Indians were present at the funeral, which took place toward evening of the same day upon which the body arrived at the agency. The usual Indian ceremonies preceded the interment, after which the remains were buried by the body of General Street, which was in accordance with the chieftain's oft-repeated request to be buried by the side of his honest pale-faced friend. Poweshiek, the chief of the Fox Indians, who, as before mentioned, lived on Skunk river, is described as tall, heavily built, of rough cast of features, and a disposition full of exaction and arrogance. When he left Fort Des Moines for the last time he went south, and encamped temporarily in the southern part of the state. His village, which consisted of about forty lodges, was located on Grand river, not far from the settlements of northern Missouri. A difficulty soon arose between the Missourians and the Indians, and there was every reason to suppose that the trouble would terminate in bloodshed. When the report of the difficulty came to Fort Des Moines, three persons—Dr. Campbell, J. B. Scott and Hamilton Thrift—who

had been intimately acquainted with Poweshiek, desirous of preventing bloodshed, mounted their horses and proceeded to the Indian encampment. This was during the winter of 1845 and 1846. Everything in and about the Indian village had a warlike appearance.

Mr. Scott sought an early interview with Poweshiek, and spoke to him as follows:

"My friends and myself have traveled through the snow a long distance to help you out of this trouble. We are your friends. If you persist in your purpose of making war on the whites, many of your squaws and papposes, as well as your braves, will be butchered. The remainder will be driven out into the cold and the snow to perish on the prairies. It would be better now for you to break up your lodges and go in peace to your reservation in Kansas, which the government has provided for you."

The old chief was at first unwilling to accept this advice, and his principal reason in not doing so was that his conduct would be construed into an exhibition of cowardice. He, however, finally concluded to accept the proffered advice, and in a short time removed beyond the Missouri river.

One of the most affable and remarkable of the Indians with whom the early settlers became acquainted was named Kish-ke-kosh. It was in honor of him that Marion county was at first named, it being afterward changed on account of the many objections which were raised to the orthography of the word.

This Kish-ke-kosh previous to 1837 was simply a warrior chief—was inferior to the village chief, to which distinction he afterward attained. The village presided over by this chief is well remembered by many of the early settlers. It was located, some say, just over the line in what is now called White Oak



township, Mahaska county. Major Beach thus describes it: "The place cannot be located exactly according to our state maps, although the writer has often visited it in Indian times, but somewhere out north from Richville, and probably not twelve miles distant, on the banks of Skunk river. Not far above the forks of Skunk was a small village of not over fifteen or twenty lodges, presided over by a man of considerable importance, though not a chief, named Kish-ke-kosh. The village was on the direct trail; in fact, it was the converging point of two trails from the Hardfish village, and the three villages across the river below Ottumwa, to the only other prominent settlement of the tribe, which was the village of Poweshiek, a Fox chief of equal rank with Wapello, situated on the Iowa river."

Here the squaws, after grubbing out hazel brush on the banks of the stream, unaided by plow or horse, planted and tended patches of corn. Here the men trained their ponies, hunted, fished and loafed until May, 1843, when they moved to the vicinity of Fort Des Moines.

#### PIONEER LIFE.

"All the experience of the early pioneer of this state goes far to confirm the theory that, after all, happiness is pretty evenly balanced in this world. They had their privations and hardships, but they had also their own peculiar joys. If they were poor, they were free from the burden of pride and vanity; free, also, from the anxiety and care that always attend the procession of wealth. Other people's eyes cost them nothing. If they had few neighbors, they were on the best of terms with those they had. Envy, jealousy and strife had not crept in. A common interest and a common sympathy bound them together



SQUAWS GUARDING THE CORN.

with the strongest ties. They were a world to themselves, and the good feeling that prevailed was all the stronger because they were so far removed from the great world of the east.

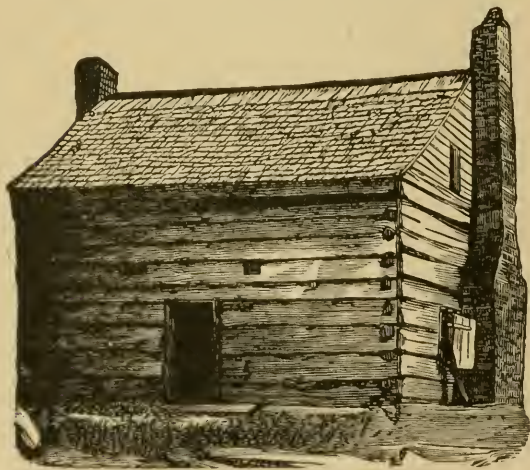
"Among these pioneers there was realized such a community of interest that there existed a community of feeling. There were no castes, *except* an aristocracy of benevolence, and no nobility, *except* a nobility of generosity. They were bound together with such a strong bond of sympathy, inspired by the consciousness of common hardship, that they were practically communists. Neighbors did not even wait for an invitation or request to help one another. Was a settler's cabin burned or blown down, no sooner was the fact known throughout the neighborhood than the settlers assembled to assist the unfortunate one to rebuild his home. They came with as little hesitation and with as much alacrity as though they were all members of the same family, and bound together by ties of blood. One man's interest was every other man's interest also. Now, this general state of feeling among the pioneers was by no means peculiar to this country, although it was strongly illustrated here. It prevailed generally throughout the entire west during the time of the early settlements. The very nature of things taught the settlers the necessity of dwelling together in this spirit. It was their only protection. They had come far away from the well-established reign of law, and entered a new country where the civil authority was still feeble, and totally unable to afford protection and redress grievances. Each man's protection was in the good will and friendship of those about him, and the thing any man might well dread was the ill will of the community. Such were some of the early characteristics of the early settlers of Iowa."

## HOUSES AND HOME COMFORTS.

The first buildings in the state were not just like the log cabins that immediately succeeded them. These latter required some help and a good deal of labor to build. The very first buildings constructed were a cross between "hoop cabins" and Indian bark huts. As soon as enough men could be got together for a "cabin raising" then log cabins were in style. Many a pioneer can remember the happiest time of his life as that when he lived in one of those homely, but comfortable and profitable, old cabins.

A window with sash and glass was a rarity, and was an evidence of wealth and aristocracy which but few could support. They were often made with greased paper put over the window,

which admitted a little light, but more often there was nothing whatever over it, or the cracks between the logs, without either chinking or daubing, was the dependence for light and air. The doors were fastened with old-fashioned wooden latches, and for a friend or neighbor or traveler the string always hung out, for the



A PIONEER CABIN.

pioneers of the west were hospitable, and entertained visitors to the best of their ability.

It is noticeable with what affection the pioneers speak of their old log cabins. It may be doubted whether palaces ever



sheltered happier hearts than those homely cabins. The following is a good description of these old landmarks, but few of which now remain:



IOWA HOME IN EARLY DAYS.

“These were of round logs notched together at the corners, ribbed with poles and covered with boards split from a tree. A puncheon floor was then laid down, a hole cut in the end and a

stick chimney run up. A clapboard door is made, a window is opened by cutting out a hole in the side or end about two feet square, and it is finished without glass or transparency. The house is then 'chinked' and 'daubed' with mud made of the top soil.

"The cabin is now ready to go into. The household and kitchen furniture is adjusted, and life on the frontier is begun in earnest.

"The one-legged bedstead, now a piece of furniture of the past, was made by cutting a stick the proper length, boring holes at one end, one and a half inches in diameter, at right angles, and the same sized holes corresponding with these in the logs of the cabin the length and breadth desired for the bed in which are inserted poles.

"Upon these poles clapboards are laid, or linden bark is interwoven consecutively from pole to pole. Upon this primitive structure the bed is laid."

The convenience of a cook stove was not thought of then, but instead the cooking was done by the faithful housewife in pots, kettles and skillets on and about the big fireplace, while the legal sovereigns of the household were indulging in the luxury of a cob pipe, and discussing the probable results of a contemplated elk hunt up and about "Spirit lake." These log cabins were not so bad after all.

In giving the bill of fare above we should have added meat, for of this they had plenty. Deer would be seen daily trooping over the prairie in droves of from twelve to twenty, and sometimes as many as fifty would be seen grazing together. Elk were also found, and wild turkeys and prairie chickens without number. Bears were not unknown. Music of the natural order was not wanting, and every night the pioneers were lulled to



rest by the screeching of panthers and the howling of wolves. When the dogs ventured too far out from the cabins at night they would be driven back by the wolves chasing them up to the very cabin door.

Rough and rude though the surroundings may have been, the pioneers of Iowa were none the less honest, sincere, hospitable and kind in their relations. It is true, as a rule, and of universal application, that there is a greater degree of real humanity among the pioneers of any country than there is when the country becomes older and richer. If there is an absence of refinement, that absence is more than compensated for in the presence of generous hearts and useful lives. They are bold, courageous, industrious, enterprising and energetic. Generally speaking, they are earnest thinkers, and possessed of a diversified fund of useful, practical information. As a rule, they do not arrive at a conclusion by means of a course of rational reasoning, but nevertheless have a queer way of getting at the facts. They hate cowards and shams of every kind, and above all things falsehoods and deception, and cultivate an integrity which seldom permits them to prostitute themselves to a narrow policy of imposture.

Such were the characteristics of the men and women who pioneered the way to the country of the Sac and Fox Indians. Many of them yet remain, and, although as a general thing they are among the wealthiest and most substantial of the people of the country, they have not forgotten their old-time hospitality and free-and-easy ways. In contrasting the present social affairs with pioneer times, one has well said:

"Then, if a house was to be raised, every man turned out, and often the women too, and, while the men piled up the logs that fashioned the primitive dwelling-place, the women prepared

the dinner. Sometimes it was cooked by big log fires near the site where the cabin was building. In other cases it was prepared at the nearest cabin, and at the proper hour was carried to where the men were at work. If one man in the neighborhood killed a beef, a pig or a deer, every other family in the neighborhood was sure to receive a piece.

"We were all an equality. Aristocratic feelings were unknown, and would not have been tolerated. What one had they all had, and that was the happiest period of my life. But to-day if you lean against a neighbor's shade tree he will charge you for it. If you are poor and fall sick, you may lie and suffer almost unnoticed and unattended, and probably go to the poor-house; and just as like as not the man who would report you to the authorities as a subject of county care would charge the county for making the report."

Of the old settlers some are still living in the state in the enjoyment of the fortunes they founded in early times, "having reaped an hundred-fold." Others have passed away, and many of them will not long survive. Several of them have gone to the far west, and are still playing the part of pioneer. But, wherever they may be and whatever fate may betide them, it is but truth to say that they were excellent men as a class, and have left a deep and enduring impression upon the state of Iowa.

There is a tide in the affairs of men  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune,  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

PART SECOND

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IOWA LEAVES

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ENTERPRISE AND PROGRESS. FOUNDED OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS, ETC. HISTORY OF  
THE GREAT FATHER OF WATERS.  
BOATING IN EARLY DAYS.



## CHAPTER II.

### ENTERPRISE AND PROGRESS.

The spirit of enterprise may be said to be common to our people, and is a characteristic worthy of notice. The circumstances of the nation have both produced and developed this feature to American society. The original settlers of Iowa were in many instances prompted by a spirit of adventure. They were a bold and enterprising race, and it is not strange that their descendants should inherit a portion of the same spirit. In general, also, the emigrants from foreign countries, who have since made their homes on our shores, have brought with them a similar characteristic.

Indeed, it is common only for the most active and fearless spirits in any nation to be willing to break up their attachments to kindred and country and home, and try their fortunes in a different and distant region of the globe. Necessity, rather than choice, has doubtless driven many, especially of late years, to the land of abundance without the requisite diligence or skill to procure it, but this class is not as yet so numerous as to effect any essential change in the enterprising turn of the American population. The circumstances of a new country like our own almost unavoidably give a prominence to active and adventurous life. The case is very different here from what it is in the old and full-grown countries of the eastern continent. In the latter the institutions of society are nearly at a stand, and there is little room for expansion and enlargement,



consequently the spirit of enterprise is less known in that portion of the globe—there is less occasion and less scope for it. Here, however, everything is in a developing and forming state; changes are continually going on; the institutions of society are not fully established. There is no aristocracy; there are no primogenitures to fix the condition of rank and of property; the consequence is the character, fortune and the comfort of life eminently depend on personal effort and enterprise, to say nothing in this place of their early and terrible conflicts to which they were exposed, from a variety of other causes, the fact alone that they have filled a wild and boundless country with the arts and institutions of civilized life shows an indomitable spirit of exertion and perseverance. We also justly attribute to the people a large share of personal independence and resolution. Both natural and moral causes have conspired in producing such traits of character, such as the extent and rugged features of our soil, the purity and brightness of our skies and the invigorating character of our climate. Among the moral causes producing traits of personal independence and resolution may be mentioned the objects sought in the early settlements of our country, the hardships to which the early settlers were subjected, their frequent contests with natives, the predominance of the agricultural interests, which are intimately connected with competence and independence, the facility of finding employment and of acquiring property and the various institutions, civil and religious, by which our nation is distinguished—these causes, especially the last named, have combined to produce a noble elevation of the public mind. They have, moreover, the characteristic distinction of being an intelligent and educated people. The intellectual character of our native citizens compares favorably with that of other nations. It has,

indeed, the same essential traits; the strong English good sense is predominant. The capacity for mechanical invention and improvement is perhaps still greater. For their efforts of genius there is a wide field in this country, and the spirit of enterprise is highly favorable to their developments. The rewards of intelligence and ingenuity are well calculated to stimulate the gifted minds of our countrymen to exertion. They who are fitted by education and knowledge for situations where these endowments are wanted, and they are wanted for every station, can find full profitable employment. It is not here as in the confined, overgrown countries of Europe, and doubtless will not soon be, considering the extent of our domain, that almost every branch of business, intellectual or mechanical, is in a state of surfeit. Here the field for enterprise, directed by intelligence, is almost unlimited. Looking to our natural presence as a state, we surely need not be ashamed of ourselves in its soil and in its scenery—need not even hide our heads before the titled guests from foreign countries. Our prairies, our meadows, beautiful forests and lovely rivers and fields of yellow grain need not apologize for asking the “lords of the British Isles” to look upon them. Of the fruits of our soil also, we have no reason to be ashamed. We believe, too, that we are less wasteful of our natural resources than before, and from what we can learn and see it is obvious that our people are learning and practicing the fundamental principles of good husbandry, and making great advances in the sciences and arts of manuring, draining and all the branches of horticulture and agriculture, while our prairies and forests are being peopled with an industrious race, and the land cheered with thriving farms, cities and villages. The old states have been rejuvenated, and the last few years have brought a wonderful transformation

to all our rural districts, especially to those in the vicinity of our great cities and villages. Perhaps our business affairs never looked better than at present, and any intelligent American who observes what is now doing in our villages and cities, the enterprise at work in producing and transforming and exchanging the products of the soil, cannot but take to himself some share of the self-respect that belongs to a people so laborious and so intelligent. The sense of prosperity comes home to a great number of our people who may seem little active in promoting it, and hundreds and thousands of quiet citizens have capital invested in coal mines, railroads, manufactories and all kinds of industries that enrich us as a state. Other marks of prosperity we have that rise into intellectual and moral grandeur, and the schools, charitable asylums and churches that are covering our state may well give us a new sense of worth that is even more important than wealth. Constant industry and rich lands have rewarded the farmer with bountiful crops and full barns; therefore, good farm-houses have been built all over the state. Work is sweet to him who sees that he is to reap where he has sown, and when the farmer of Iowa drives his strong plowshare through the tough sod and turns up the fat black soil, he enjoys his labor, for his mind's eye sees those lands waving with yellow grain which he is sure to reap.

Our readers well know, too, that cities do not make themselves, but are built up with hard, persistent and determined effort, and that besides unwearied labor something is owing to circumstances which no man can foresee. In all the glowing places in our land there is a large investment in machinery, tools, workshops and steam power, and these cities in our state are not places where men buy and sell and get gain, but are also great beehives, where are being produced a thousand

things which civilized people now demand; but let us refer to the open secret of the whole matter, and let no man forget it. Out of the bosom of the beautiful earth comes all the wealth, and he who digs it makes money, not he who sits in his banking house and with greased measure measures gold and wheat; he may get the money, but the other makes it and ought to have it. Behind our cities and villages there spread away these broad acres of fertile lands, upon which grow the waving fields of yellow wheat and of corn, of which millions of bushels are sent forth to feed the people of the old world as well as the new, and the beef and pork and coal industries, without which bankers and merchants would perish and leave no sign. Honor, glory and praise and profit be to the stalwart souls and bodies in Iowa who produce.

The people who composed the first colonies of Iowa were great lovers of progress, and watched the rapid innovations of the coming settlers with great satisfaction. The value of land was thus enhanced a hundred-fold. A great many people living in the east at that time had an impression that this part of the country was an entire wilderness hardly redeemable. How few indeed can have any conception of the rapidity with which it has been settled? Civilization pursues one as a remorseful conscience does a fugitive criminal. If any "New Yorker" or any denizen of the now cramped-up eastern states is inclined to doubt, let him travel our broad expanse, and he will find that the wild beast does not make his lair in every timber tract, nor the Indian claim his sovereignty undisputed. Their occupation is gone. The wild deer and bear have also disappeared, and work is irksome to the noble savage. Those living here now see the red race almost extinct; they possessed our country at one time, but left no marks upon its history, and are

remembered as a curiosity of the past rather than as a part of the development of manhood.

Iowa is also one of the most delightful countries in the world, possessing a genial climate, a fertile soil, abounding in all those natural resources whose development and use constitute the true wealth of a state. Her beautiful forests, lovely rivers and extended prairies offer at the same time a rich and varied feast to the romantic traveler. Her annals, although they might now be considered within the memory and experience of a single life, are swelled with many a page wherein the statesman and philosopher may find food for thought and theme for speculation; they furnish us the records of a people who have won a fair heritage by their courage, have cultivated it with industry and governed it with wisdom; a people who have fought their own battles, plowed their own soil and made their own laws. We may also find names—familiar as household words—of men, types of their race, sustained by native force alone, who have led the way in war and in peace, and attained the highest distinction in the camp and in the cabinet, whose fame, too large for the narrow limits of state, now belongs to our national history. In the first settling of Iowa we might have discerned the Indian and the red deer, but their feet have departed; the sound of the warwhoop and the ring of the rifle have given place to the clip of the ax and the shriek of the steam whistle. The laughing water turns the busy mill and the cry of the wild drake is hushed by the hum of civilization.

The mud-chinked cabin of the pioneer settler, initiated from the handiwork of a Daniel Boone, has given place to elegant villas designed by a Downing or a Vaux. Strangely contrasting with the simple garb and manner of the olden time,



we meet everywhere with the luxury and polish of modern refinement. There are great industries scattered here and there all over our great state, and long, long ago old folks began to shake their heads at the new-fangled institutions springing up every day in our land. Let us go back to the early school days of Iowa and the old log school-house, where our forefathers



LOG SCHOOL-HOUSE.

acquired the rudiments of learning and experience—the incipient sorrows of knowledge. These log houses were built either on open prairies or under the shadows of native timber, rude log pens, floored with puncheons, with a single opening which served as a door, but entirely without windows or chimneys. In the center of the room was a hearth formed of stones and earth. When in winter a huge log fire blazed and fumed, the

smoke, when not blown into the eyes of the scholars, rose and gathered in a cloud under the high-pitched roof, and escaped through the wide crevices at the eaves. Ranged in a hollow square around the fire were the scholars, who sat on rough-hewn benches conning their well-thumbed primers or blue-backed spelling-books with vociferous diligence. The school was divided into three classes, big boys, little boys and girls, and presided over by an Irish schoolmaster, who wore a pair of goggles, and maintained his state on a split-bottomed throne with scepter of hickory—tough timber and far-searching. In these wigwams of science, deep hidden in primeval forests or on smooth, open prairies, the children of the first settlers of Iowa acquired an education. Those days have long since gone by, and we look to-day upon hundreds of magnificent monuments of learning scattered all over our great state, equipped with all the modern improvements, where the children of Iowa to-day are instructed in all the different grades of learning, arts, science and literature.

The state of Iowa was originally known as the "Black Hawk Purchase," and many people in the far eastern country, even beyond the Alleghany mountains in Virginia, caught the adventurous spirit or "Black Hawk" fever, and migrated to these sparsely-settled regions. Their ancestors were pioneers of that hardy, stony, clear-minded race who settled the Shenandoah valleys, Virginia, and the Cumberland and Monongahela valleys of Pennsylvania, who built up their churches, improved their homes and with a missionary enterprise ventured farther on. These early pioneers of Iowa were types of the frontier settlers who sought the comforts of home life, the society of friends and the culture of the mind rather than wealth, and, though living in Iowa when speculations might have made them rich,

with opportunities to get large fortunes, chose simplicity of life, and the greater portion of them passed away without a dollar in their possession. These noble pioneers came to the state when a mere colony, lived in it while a territory and during all its great and wonderful growth are among those of the past who live only in the tradition of their friends.

Iowa scarcely well preserves the memory of her frontiersmen and pioneers, or is it because each living generation rather loves the present than the past?

The versatile Chief Justice Joseph Williams, in his day a man of wonderful versatility; Judge Jonathan Hall, strong, clear and honest in his convictions and in his life, with his brother Augustus, who had a brilliant imagination and logical mind—fine powers as an orator; Gillespie, with great natural sense and mother wit; Corse, Carpenter, Negus and the venerable Judge Jeffries, among the early and enterprising pioneers, are no more. The versatile genius, Gen. Morgan, or "Little Red," who so long ranked at the head of the editorial profession in the state, with his friend, Gov. Lucas, who came with the author's father, Col. Robt. Robinson, from the valley of the Scioto to Iowa, are living links in the history of the first settling of this great state.

Gen. A. C. Dodge, the great orator and statesman, and minister to Spain during the early administration of our country,



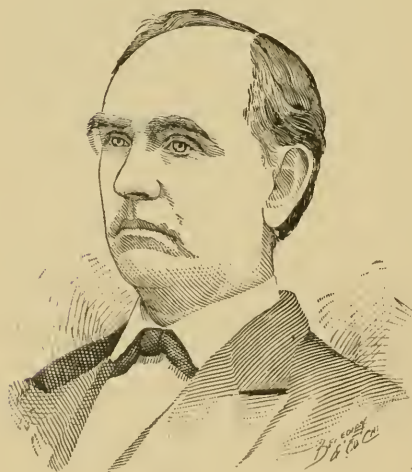
COL. ROBT. ROBINSON.

who held many offices of trust in the general and state governments—kind, hospitable, charitable, courteous and liberal in everything—is also numbered among the brave and noble pioneers of Iowa who sleep to-day in our silent cities of the dead.

Whether they be considered in regard to mind or heart, no country ever had a braver, happier or more hospitable or more enlightened people than were the first settlers of Iowa,

Who, like the snowflake on the river,  
A moment here, then gone forever;  
Or like the borealis race  
That flits ere you can point the place;  
Or like the rainbow's beauteous form,  
Vanishing amidst the storm.

It is befitting our theme in speaking of the early days of our state that a brief allusion be made to the great Father of



GEN. A. C. DODGE.

Waters, which marks her eastern boundary and separates her from the state of Illinois, as the first white settlements made in the state were along its banks. We will not dwell at great length upon the facts of its discovery, which are generally understood, or which may be found in our standard histories, which tell us that the gallant and romantic De Soto had the honor of discovering the great river in the year 1538, almost 400

years ago. The next discovery was made from an entirely different quarter, and was prompted by different motives.



We allude to its discovery and exploration by Marquette and Joliet, who were the first to explore the river. Upon the results of this exploration the destiny of states and nations has been influenced if not controlled. It is worthy of special notice that the present generation were not the first pioneers of this beautiful region. On the contrary, the oldest inhabitants simply came to live in a country first unveiled to the gaze of the world by the dauntless heroism and disinterested religious zeal of James Marquette. He and his companion



MARQUETTE AND JOLIET  
ENTERING THE MISSISSIPPI.

Joliet were undeniably the first white men who ever trod the soil of Iowa. Space forbids, interesting as the excursion would be, to follow step by step the progress of their voyage along the shores of Iowa. The mere outlines and meager details which we give are taken wholly from "Marquette's Original Narration," a most interesting book.

They first entered the Mississippi at the place where MacGregor, Ia., now stands. It seems at that time that



numerous Indian villages were scattered along the banks of the river at this place, whose inhabitants were friendly with Marquette, and did their best to dissuade the undertaking of exploring the river. "They told me," says Marquette, "that we would meet nations that never spare strangers, but tomahawked them without provocation; that they were at war with each other, which would increase our danger; that the great river itself was full of perils, of frightful monsters, which swallowed up men and canoes; that it contained a demon that ingulfed all who dare approach, and, lastly, that the excessive heat would infallibly cause our death." Disheartened? no, not he. "I thanked them for their kind advice, but assured them I could not follow it." So the voyagers entered the great Mississippi near the city of MacGregor on June 7, 1763. They were not molested in the least, and traveled along in their birch canoes for nearly 2,000 miles, and saw no human being until June 25. They saw footprints of men by the water's side, and a path leading up through a beautiful prairie. They concluded to stop. This path was rightly conjectured to lead to an Indian village. Singly and alone Marquette and Joliet resolved to pursue the path, and to assume the peril of meeting a barbarous and unknown people, who were in those days the only inhabitants of these regions now bearing the name of Iowa. Following the path some five or six miles they discovered three Indian villages, somewhat separated, on the banks of a beautiful river, the name of which Marquette does not give, but on his map he indicates the course of the river, and gives the names of two of these villages, viz.; Pe-wa-re and Moin-gue-na. The site of these villages cannot with certainty be ascertained, but the name favors the conjecture that the river was the river Des Moines in southeastern Iowa, and probably was. Marquette

and Joliet advanced undiscovered so far that they even heard the Indians talking. In order to show them that they intended

no surprise or harm, they halted and by a loud cry announced their presence. Strange meeting that first one on Iowa soil between the amazed Indians and their unknown visitors; wild and strange the ceremonies which characterized it and illuminated it with a wild and strange splendor.

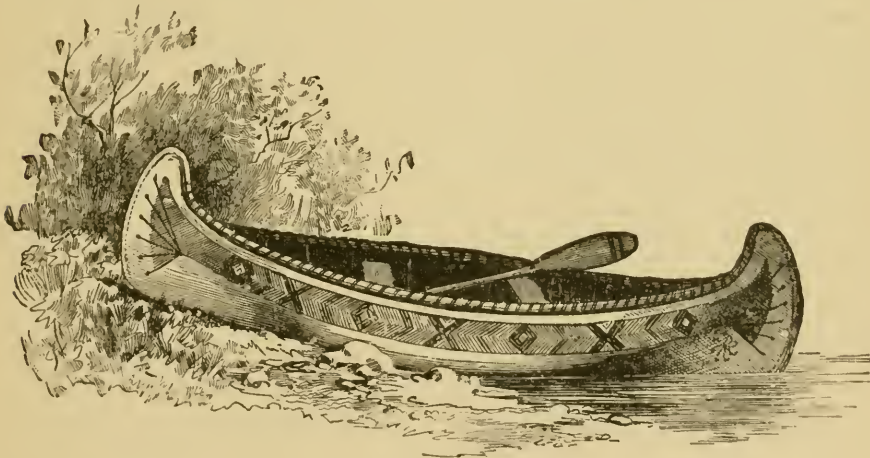
They are received in warm welcome and in peace; their course becomes a splendid ovation. The savages depute four of their oldest men to meet and receive them, and two of the deputies bear aloft the gaily-adorned calumet of peace. All four advance silently but slowly with stately, barbarous dignity. Indian-like, as an earnestness of peace, they present their visitors with the mysterious pipe. They invite them to their city and tender, with sincerity and warmth, its rude hospitality. Arriving at the village, all the people turned out to gaze at them, when Marquette briefly spoke of the object of his mission (for they used a dialect of the Algonquin language with which he was famil-



INDIAN PEACE PIPES.

iar)—“Of the one God of the great French captain who had subdued the Iroquois, their ancient enemies.” Speech-making on such occasions and in those days would not seem to be a civilized ceremony. The sachem of the tribe, rising to reply, spoke as follows, a speech which, though never noticed as such, is one of the finest specimens of Indian eloquence: “I thank the black gown (alluding to Marquette) and the Frenchman (addressing Joliet) for taking so much pains to come and see us. Never has the earth been so beautiful nor the sun so bright as now. Never has the river been so calm nor so free from rocks, which your canoes have removed as they passed. Never has our tobacco had so fine a flavor, nor our corn appeared so beautiful as we behold it to-day. Ask the Great Spirit, whom thou knowest, to give us life and health, and come thou and dwell among us.” What a magnificent speech for the first one ever made on Iowa’s rich soil over 200 years ago. Following this a great feast was spread before the strangers, which in his glowing style, disdaining particulars, Ban Croft describes as a “magnificent festival, prepared of hominy and fish, with the choicest viands from the prairies of Iowa.” Let us consult the faithful and unexaggerated account of Marquette, and see the style and “bill of fare” of this “magnificent festival,” the first meal ever sat down to by white men upon the western side of the Mississippi river in Iowa. “This feast,” says Marquette, “consisted of four courses, which we had to take with all their ways. The first course was a great wooden dish of sagamity, that is to say, of Indian meal, boiled in water and seasoned with grease. The master of ceremonies, with a wooden spoonful of sagamity, presented it several times to my mouth as we would to a little child; he did the same to Joliet. For the second course he brought in another dish containing three fish, removed

the bones, and having blown on it to cool, put it into my mouth as we should feed a bird. For a third course they produced a large dog (as an Indian can give no higher mark of his friendship than to sacrifice his faithful companion) which they had just killed, but learning that we did not eat dog it was finally withdrawn. The fourth course was a piece of wild buffalo, the fatted portion of which was put into our mouths." This is the style and "bill of fare" of the first meal ever served to the white race within what is now the borders of one of the greatest states of the Union.



INDIAN CANOE.

After remaining in these regions for several days, 600 Indians accompanied Marquette and Joliet to their boats, and they embarked, following the current, and soon passed the boundaries of what is now the great state of Iowa.

"Do the departed look down upon us? We love to imagine that as these voyagers passed along the shores of the great river in the majestic solitude of nature, they listened, and,

listening, heard the busy tramp of the coming millions, and had visions of the commonwealths that have so marvelously arisen along the banks of the great river that they were the first to explore. They founded no cities, they left no permanent physical monuments behind them, yet a generous posterity will not willingly let their names perish. So long as the river flows it will water their memories, and preserve them fresh and green."

This great river and its countless tributaries in Iowa are ours, its babbling fountains, springs and waterfalls, brooks and streams are indisputably ours. It is fortunate for Iowa that this magnificent river flows along its borders and the great state itself has passed into our hands.

Only two generations or more have passed away, and see the results. Great and flourishing cities and villages line its banks from its source to its mouth. Civil and religious liberty, science, literature, religion, art, education and educational institutions—all that can adorn or bless a state or a nation—have here found a home. What is there anywhere in all the records of our race so remarkable as to be compared with the marvelous growth and development of the Mississippi valley, of which Iowa has a large share. One of the peculiar features connected with this great river in the early settlement of our state was the "flat boat" which plied the river, built of gun-wales and planks, some 100 feet long and thirty broad, and square at the ends, familiarly known as "broad horn." Some were roofed over, others were left open, and carried the loads of giants. On every tributary these arks were constructed through the summer and fall, ready to do their work when the hour should come, and then myriads of corn-fields, large and small, poured their crops together in these "broad horns," and

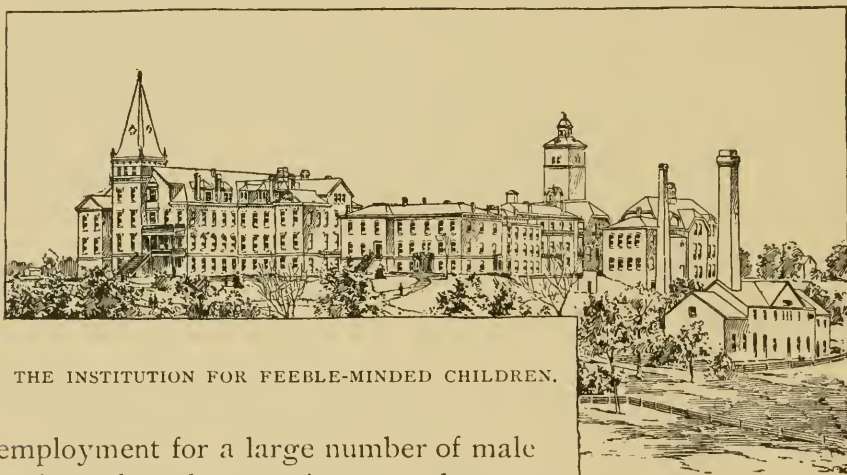


were swept downward by stream to eastern and southern markets. Those are a thing of the past, and have given place to rapid transportation on the iron rails. Numerous cities have grown up along the banks of this great river in Iowa, which will interest the traveler and speculator—Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine, Clinton, Burlington and Keokuk. Some of them are large cities, furnished with paved streets, electric and cable cars, warehouses piled with merchandise, manufactories, and one might fancy portions of New York and Chicago had been transplanted as they stood. All these have done much and promise to do more, and active, determined men do not fear to build mills and hotels, railroads and rapid transit car lines and factories, being sure of good returns. The interior cities of our state—Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Ottumwa, Waterloo, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Oskaloosa, Iowa Falls, Vinton, Anamosa, West Liberty, Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield, Pella, Charles City, Sigourney, Knoxville, Atlantic, Red Oak, Chariton, Osceola, Creston, Corning, Centerville, Shenandoah, Clarinda and hundreds of others—are filled chuck full of an enterprising class of citizens, who work hard for the upbuilding of their cities and the country surrounding them. Council Bluffs and Sioux City, on the banks of the great Missouri in the extreme western part of the state, are noted for their enterprise and push. Both are rapidly improving, and are a surprise to the traveler passing through the western portion of our state.

The report of the treasurer of the state of Iowa shows that her financial condition is better now than it has ever been. The total assessed value of taxable property at present is \$522,567,477.

The reports of the various state institutions give a fair account of the work done by them. All are in excellent condi-

tion, and are performing with a large measure of efficiency the parts assigned them, respectively, whether educational, eleemosynary or reformatory. First is the Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, which is well managed; the discipline among the employes is excellent, and complaints on the part of patients are exceedingly rare. The second Hospital for the Insane is located at Independence. The farm connected with this hospital contains 580 acres of land, which not only furnishes healthy



THE INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

employment for a large number of male patients, but also promises to reduce to a considerable extent the cost of supporting the institution. The trustees in their last report have asked for an appropriation of \$10,000 for an electric light plant. The electric light is giving excellent satisfaction in the state institutions where it is in use. The new Hospital for the Insane at Clarinda, in Page county, which was completed in 1888, is one of the best equipped hospitals in the state. The report of the visiting committee bears witness to the good management of this hospital. They speak very highly of the quantity and quality of

food served and clothing provided for the patients, of the care bestowed upon the sick and infirm and of the excellent sanitary condition of all these institutions.

The institution for the feeble-minded children at Glenwood, in Mills county, is well worthy of notice. It is the object of the state to afford the largest opportunity possible for the improvement of these feeble-minded children, and unremitting attention is required on the part of those who have charge of them. The brightening and developing mind that responds ordinarily to the efforts of the teacher of the young, and gladdens his heart, is here sadly wanting, and there is little to cheer him beyond the consciousness of faithful endeavor. The results reached in the educational and industrial departments of this institution are quite satisfactory, and the reports of the trustees and superintendents are worthy of careful consideration. The Soldiers' Orphan Home at Davenport is another institution wherein Iowa has been diligent in contributing to the mental, moral and physical welfare of its inmates with wholesome and abundant food, tender care and excellent educational facilities. The benevolent hand of the greatest state in the Union is rearing its poor unfortunate children to healthy, useful and intelligent manhood and womanhood. It is certainly a wise policy that leads to a life of happiness and virtue these friendless children, who otherwise might be doomed to a career of wretchedness and crime, were they left to the mercy of a cold and uncharitable world.

The Soldiers' Home is another interesting institution in our state. The readiness with which the feeble, crippled and homeless soldiers avail themselves of the comforts and facilities of this home demonstrates that the twenty-first General Assembly acted wisely in establishing this institution. Good fare, clean beds, warm rooms, baths and in time of sickness care and atten-

tion constitute both a welcome and deserved provision for the Union veterans. All reports show that this home is being well managed. The surroundings of this institution have been beautified by the planting of shade trees, by the clearing of unsightly objects from the grounds and by other improvements, which give the place the appearance of a well-kept home.

The discipline and general management of the State-Prison at Ft. Madison has been excellent in every respect, and the appropriations made by the late general assembly have been expended with care and economy. The number in confinement June 30, 1889, was ninety-four less than at the beginning of the period, and was smaller than at any corresponding time in any other year since 1882. Nor was this due to any excessive use of the pardoning power. The number of commitments to the two penitentiaries in the state for the period was 536. This is the smallest number of commitments in any biennial period since 1873. The reduction in the number of convicts in the prison made the expense of supporting and guarding them \$13,371.51 less than during the previous term.

If the number of prisoners continues to decrease in the same ratio in which it has decreased during the last four years. Iowa will soon have a prison for sale or rent.

Another State-Prison is situated at Animosa in the northeast part of the state; one ward being devoted entirely to the use of female criminals, a great improvement being thus effected in the facilities of caring for these inmates of the prison. The criminal insane show marked physical and mental improvement, due to their large, commodious and well-ventilated quarters and much outdoor exercise. Better hospital and bath-room facilities have also been provided, and the general health of the prison has been good.

The Prisoners' Aid Association continues its work for the reformation of the criminal. The state is interested not only in the punishment of the crime, but also in the career of the convict after he has satisfied the law. This association aims to make that career a credit to the man and a benefit to society.

The State Industrial School, located at Eldora, is one of our most interesting institutions. The general health of this school has been unusually good, and the results of its work are spoken of in the highest terms by the trustees. Many of the former inmates of this institution are now useful and respected members of society, and their lives bear witness to the good training which the school affords. This moral hospital renders excellent service to the state.

The report of the superintendent of public instruction, in presenting the condition and needs of the public schools, is unusually interesting. The school property, number of teachers and average school attendance show a considerable increase. The number of school children between the ages of five and twenty-one is 649,606. The number enrolled in the public schools is 489,227 and the average daily attendance 304,856. The number of teachers reported is 25,793; the number of schools, 15,611; the number of school-houses, 12,897, representing a value of \$12,580,345. The permanent school fund amounts to \$4,319,442, and continues to increase. The average monthly wages of male teachers is \$37.52 and of female teachers \$30.87.

The superintendent states that the law requiring instruction in the public schools concerning the effects of stimulants and narcotics upon the human system has been observed in nearly every school in the state. This instruction, contemplated to fortify the child against the formation of bad habits, promises great good to the cause of temperance.



Iowa occupies the enviable position of having the best schools and the least number of illiterates, in proportion to population, of all the states in the Union, which nothing but the greatest vigilance has given her. Our schools will always be what we make them; they reflect the will and spirit of the people, and rise or fall to their standard.

The State University at Iowa City is another leading institution, which is in an unusually flourishing condition. The financial affairs of the institution and the strengthening of the faculty have had careful attention on the part of the board of regents. The changes made in the several faculties have brought about great harmony among teachers and students, and develop an increasing interest on the part of the latter.

The educational interests of Iowa are dear to our people; therefore, we have an institution worthy of our commonwealth. We have an institution where the best facilities for securing a liberal education are provided. The agricultural college at Ames is such an institution. The number in the last graduating class was forty-five, besides three who took a second degree. This is the largest class that has ever left the institution. The experiments in horticulture and forestry at this institution continue with satisfactory results. It is certainly profitable to our people to learn what fruits are, and what are not, adapted to our climate and soil. It has been the aim of the management to conform to the requirements of the congressional act granting the college lands, and to impart instruction in studies pertaining to agriculture and the mechanical arts as well as in military tactics.

The State Normal School at Cedar Falls, with 541 pupils in attendance, is another very prominent institution in our state. A gratifying feature of the growth of this school is found in the

increased number of students in the higher grades. Teachers acquire the art of teaching and thorough training, and those who enjoy the benefits of normal instruction for even a short space of time are better fitted for their work by reason of that discipline. The unification of the work of the normal school with that of the high school, which was suggested in the reports of 1887, has been tried sufficiently to warrant the opinion that it increases the usefulness of this institution, and is also of advantage to the high schools, adjusting their work to the prescribed course. While recognizing the great usefulness of this institution, we feel that it is only just to make here a due acknowledgment of the excellent work which is being done by the several private normal schools in the state. Most of these enjoy a high degree of prosperity, and their influence is felt in almost every school district in Iowa.

The institution for the deaf and dumb, situated at Council Bluffs, is in a prosperous condition, and the health of the inmates unusually good. This institution has been very prudently managed, and may well be proud of having sent a proportionately larger number to the national college for the deaf and dumb than any other school.

Great importance is justly attached to manual and industrial training in the education of the young. This institution is lighted by electricity and equipped with all modern improvements.

The college for the blind at Vinton is one of the most wonderful and interesting institutions in the state. The total enrollment of pupils during the term was 206, while the largest enrollment at any other time was 177. All but one are natives of the United States, and forty were born in Iowa. The building and grounds are in excellent condition. An appropriation

has been made by which the water-works system of the city of Vinton will be extended to the college.

Our national guard consists of six regiments of eight companies each, with fifty men to each company. They are all well uniformed, equipped with improved firearms and all the necessary accouterments, and supplied with all necessities. The guard is officered largely by experienced soldiers of the civil war, and the rank and file is composed of the best young men in the state, who have an earnest desire to learn military tactics and art. It is in a high state of discipline, and is prepared to respond promptly whenever it may be called into active service. The encampments during the past two years have been unusually successful. For those held last year the secretary of war detailed two companies from the regular army to encamp with each regiment, which proved of great service to both our officers and men.

The State Horticulture Society is engaged in gathering and disseminating information as to the fruits best fitted for cultivation in the state, and renders valuable service to our people. Its work fully justifies the small expenditure increased by the state on its account.

The growing interest in the improvement of the breeds of domestic animals is evidenced in the proceedings of the Improved Stock Breeders' Association. The apparent benefit of feeding grain to live stock instead of shipping it out of the state has directed attention to the profitableness of improved breeds, and almost incredible advancement has been made during the past twenty years in the improving of the quality of our domestic animals. This association has contributed largely to this progress. The number and value of live stock in our state in 1889 were as follows: Horses, 1,053,193, valued at \$78,975,376, mules,

47,018, valued at \$4,003,124; milch cows, 1,293,095, valued at \$22,861,880; other cattle, 2,095,253, valued at \$42,856,531; hogs, 6,750,000, valued at \$38,082,500; sheep, 540,700, valued at \$1,332,559; aggregate value, \$189,110,970.

The work of the dairy commissioners was so well performed during the period contemplated by the original act for its existence that it has been determined to make the office a permanent one. While the law does not prohibit the manufacture and sale of imitation butter or cheese, its practical operation has virtually brought about such prohibition. The commissioners' reports show that there has never been a manufactory of oleomargarine in the state, and there never has been issued any federal license for the sale of that article in the forty-nine counties constituting the Dubuque internal revenue district. The co-operation of the national and state authorities is complete, and through their combined efforts the sale of simulated dairy products has been quite effectually stopped. In the year 1888 618 creameries produced 41,576,548 pounds of butter. In 1889 there were 683 creameries, with products 15 per cent. larger than those of the previous year. In 1888 there were 104 factories making 4,406,098 pounds of cheese; in 1889 there were 164 factories. The estimated value of all butter and cheese made at the factories last year is \$16,779,235.89.

The Iowa weather service has completed its twelfth year under state auspices. The data gathered by the director during many years are of permanent value, and are calculated to dispel the erroneous notion concerning violent atmospheric disturbances in Iowa that are widely entertained beyond our border. By sensational newspaper writers in and outside of Iowa the people of this country have come to believe that this state is overrun in winter, and especially in summer, with tornadoes.

The official and semi-official publication of the signal service republished by Iowa papers has confirmed our people in this belief, so that many take fright at the first dark and threatening cloud appearing above the western horizon. There can be no question that these stories have frightened many eastern people out of the purpose of settling in Iowa.

The tornado at Reading, Pa. (January 9, 1889), was made the topic of extended notice in the same style, one of the most prominent papers of our state going so far as to frighten our people by editorially assuring them that such tornadoes might visit Iowa in midwinter, and that it would be wise in winter to constantly look out for threatening clouds of this kind; this means in plain English that our Iowa people should even in midwinter be in constant fear of danger to life and property by the dread tornado. We, therefore, deem it our duty in this work to protest against this unwarranted defamation of the climate of Iowa and most cruel and unfounded play on the fears of our people, and we are astonished to find that a few of the papers in the state have indulged in cheap ridicule instead of disabusing the minds of our people in regard to the fancied tornado dangers of Iowa that are keeping away desirable immigrants, and thus contribute to the depression of property in our state. Straight-blowing gales occur in almost all parts of the world. The inhabitants of any country will have to learn to resist the power of these storms. Here in the northwest we have such gales or Iowa squalls. There is no need to insure against such storms, but rather to use the capitalized insurance premium to secure substantial structures. When building our architects should learn above all to avoid furnishing every gale a special leverage and advantages in broad cornices and other projecting fancy ornaments. We ought to stop putting up band-



box buildings on our prairies, and adapt our architecture to the climate of the state we live in. But above all we ought no longer to fill our newspapers with glaring headlines of tornadoes and cyclones whenever a moderately fierce straight gale sweeps across our prairies and has turned over some of the flimsy structures that have been put up more for looks and size than for strength and comfort. For this sort of mishap the climate of Iowa is not to blame; it is the work of the people themselves.

Iowa is fast becoming a great manufacturing center and every encouragement is being given to investors. By building up factories in our midst we do away with the long haul and bring the producer and consumer nearer together. We have in the past imported too many of the products of eastern mills and workshops, and export far too many of the products of our farms. Many of these are worked up in other states to be returned and retailed within our borders. Our people thus lose the price of freight both ways, the earnings of the laborer and the profits of the manufacturer and dealer.

Our courts show a marked improvement in dealing with the temperance question in the last few years, nearly all of the judges being now disposed to enforce the law whether they are in sympathy with it or not. In those counties where the law is not enforced the fault lies almost invariably with the executive officers. The constitution provides that the governor shall take care that the laws are faithfully executed, and the statutes authorize him to suspend any state officer who may neglect this duty. But a county officer may willfully neglect his duty, and the governor has no power to call him to account. If provision were made for the suspending for gross negligence of such officers as are charged with the enforcement of the law, and ample funds were placed at the command of the governor

to aid prosecution, the saloon would soon be a thing of the past in Iowa.

Divine Providence has certainly been most propitious to the people of our state not only during the past few years, but ever since Iowa became a state. We have been blessed with beautiful crops, good health and general prosperity. We have been free from all calamity and social disorders, and we have much and undisputed evidence of the intellectual and moral advancement of our people. Iowa capital, which for several years sought speculative investments beyond our borders, realizes the magnitude and stability of our resources, and is fast returning to aid in the building up of our industries and the enhancement of our commerce. Schools and colleges are multiplying throughout the state, and both church and society stand upon a higher plane than ever before.

We shall endeavor to give our readers descriptions of portions of our great state and the many natural advantages possessed by them. First we will enter the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa and dwell largely on the many beauties they contain.

PART THREE

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# SOUTHWESTERN IOWA

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BEAUTIES OF THE BLUE GRASS REGIONS AND BLUE  
GRASS PALACE AT CRESTON, UNION  
COUNTY, IOWA.



## CHAPTER III.

### BEAUTIES OF THE BLUE GRASS REGIONS AND PALACE.

The great resources of the Hawk-eye state are known far and wide, yet to the world there is much to tell of the enterprise of the people who have placed Iowa in the front rank of all the states in the Union. In order to tell the story of the enterprise of these people in this connection it is necessary to go back to the origination of the Blue Grass League of southwestern Iowa, which has done much, and promises to do more, toward the upraising of one of the greatest states in the Union.

The Blue Grass League was organized some three years ago at Creston, Union county, by a large number of enthusiastic and intelligent citizens of that portion of the country, for the purpose of uniting more firmly the interests of that beautiful section. The untiring efforts put forth by the efficient officers and members of this organization have been crowned with success, and the benefits derived therefrom for southwestern Iowa have been marvelous. The Blue Grass League comprises eighteen of our best counties, which are as follows: Appanoose, Wayne, Decatur, Ringold, Taylor, Page, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Warren, Madison, Adair, Cass and Pottawattamie.

These regions possess a genial climate, good pure water and a large supply of native timber and extensive veins of coal, while the prairies are dotted with well-cultivated farms, which greet the eye of the traveler in every direction, and on



all sides may be seen the evidence of thrift, prosperity and comfort found only in the best farming regions of the state. The winters here are mild, considering the latitude, and the summers are not especially warm. There is an absence of many diseases that often render the lower lands peculiarly unhealthy.



Wheat, oats, corn, rye, barley, millet and flax yield rich and luxuriant returns to the husbandman and all kinds of fruits and garden vegetables incidental to the latitude can be grown in profusion. The peculiar climate and soil of these regions are admirably adapted to the growth of tame grasses, and hay from

these regions, wherever known, displaces others in the markets of the south and east. Live stock, especially horses and cattle, live and thrive well during ordinary seasons the year round on pasturage and hay feeding and from November to April on the famed winter blue grass pasture of this section. No country under the sun has better drainage or veins of water, the average depth of wells being from twenty-five to thirty-five feet deep. Nearly every farm is supplied with good pure water by springs, rivers or running brooks, and no country within the limits of our continent stands drought so well, and owing to the rolling character of the surface of the country crops are little damaged by wet seasons. Rarely will the traveler find a more magnificent country, more suggestive of real wealth and prosperity, than can be seen on the broad rich prairies of the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa. In rapid succession we pass the elegant homes of the industrious farmer, with his fields of yellow grain and waving corn and large herds of stock grazing on luxuriant blue grass pasture. There beautiful homes have arisen from the rude cabins of the frontier farmer as attractive as any in our eastern states, surrounded by fine bearing orchards, gardens and all the luxuries known to farm life. Cosy school-houses are seen in every district and neat white churches with their tapering spires point to the abode of Him who hath so richly blessed his children. There is certainly beauty on every hand. The wild flowers on the prairies, of a thousand different varieties and colors, greet the eye at every step, and even the tiniest foot could scarcely touch the ground without crushing the life from some of these emblems of purity. These regions are certainly favored spots in Iowa, and those seeking homes can find here all that is desirable in climate, pleasant, intelligent and prosperous people, good markets,

excellent schools, fine churches, low taxes, fertile soil, pure water and a country that produces good average crops every year. California may and does possess grand and magnificent mountain scenery, unsurpassed, I presume, by any in the world, together with broad and fertile plains; Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Colorado are grand and beautiful in their rugged strength, but in none of these can be found scenes of quiet, graceful beauty which, by any stretch of imagination, can be ranked as equal to those found anywhere in the blue grass regions. Nowhere else have we seen vegetation clothed in such brilliant colors, and when the surfaces of other lands are bare, parched and brown, the transition from thence to these green fields and fertile plains unfolds to us almost a new phase of existence. These regions are less susceptible to the effects of drought than any of the adjoining countries, neither have extremes of wet weather as yet caused any severe loss to crops. The great abundance of grain, stock, dairy products, coal, stone and native timber would not be especially valuable to this country were it not for the excellent shipping facilities afforded. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, traverses this section entirely from east to west by main line and from north to south by numerous branches. No railroad on the continent passes through so rich and fertile country as does this through the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa. This is one of the great natural advantages possessed by this famous section of country. The traveler who carefully surveys these regions as he passes through them will find that they also contain many beautiful cities and villages, whose rapid growth is largely due to the enterprise of the class of citizens dwelling in the towns and surrounding countries.

The old wooden business houses and blocks in these cities

and villages are being torn down and magnificent brick blocks are fast taking their places, and the size and quality of the stock of goods carried by the business men are as constantly and rapidly improving, and their schools and churches rank among the best in the state; factories are being established in all these towns, as the location, railroad facilities, abundance of water and cheap fuel are benefits of which manufacturers will take advantage, and finally cause them to establish their works in these regions, while those already located here are very successful. The coal-mining industry in the blue grass regions is in better condition at present than at any time since the creating of the departments. The ventilation, drainage and general security of nearly all the mines in this region have been greatly improved. The double-entry system and the split-air system are rapidly taking the place of the old methods, and consequently the bad air in mines and other evils are much diminished. It is said that the mining law and mine inspection of Iowa are second only to Pennsylvania. These mines during the past year have enjoyed a splendid trade. Although there has been no advance in prices, all things considered, it has been a very prosperous year, and the outlook at present is very encouraging for the future. We think this can be attributed, to a certain extent, to so many new railroads opening up in the west, which makes a large market for Iowa coal, and the freight rates being more favorable to the west has a tendency to shut out competition.

When we consider that as recently as seventy-five years ago in England and Scotland coal was carried to the surface by women on their heads; that wheelbarrows or sleds dragged by hand or by dogs were used for a long time; that hoisting was done by horses in gins or by water-balance shafts; that even



after the introduction of iron rails, until a recent date, horses and mules were exclusively employed, all of which could transport but limited quantities of coal, we can better appreciate the great advantages of modern progress in the way of machinery, which now brings more coal to the surface of the earth in a day than half a century ago was brought in a year.

The many advantages herein enumerated are but a few of those possessed by the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa, the whole of which can only be known and appreciated by a personal inspection or residence in this country, which will bear the closest inspection and test, as it is impossible to give more than a brief description of the same at this time in this work. But those who have lived here for years know whereof we speak. We confidently invite the stranger to test the truth of our assertions by a personal visit and inspection, knowing that he will find the blue grass regions all and more than we herein claim for it.

#### PEN PICTURE OF CRESTON AND THE BLUE GRASS PALACE.

Love of nature, that strong feeling of enthusiasm which leads to profound admiration of the whole works of creation, belongs, it may be presumed, to a certain peculiarity of organization, and has no doubt existed in different individuals from the beginning of the world. The old poets and philosophers, romance writers and troubadours had all looked upon nature with observing and admiring eyes. Most of them have given incidentally charming pictures of spring, of the setting sun, of particular favorite spots and of favorite flowers. There are few writers of note, of any country or of any age, from whom quotation might not be made on this subject; therefore, it will be necessary that the reader should accompany us



through the most romantic country in the world and with us gaze on the most sublime picture of the age. We are confident that you will be agreeably pleased, delighted and entertained in making the journey. Never before had art and nature been manipulated with so great genius and skill as was demonstrated in the blue grass palaces of 1889 and 1890. A perfect panorama of all that is beautiful in art and nature was expressed here in all its intensity, and until this work had not been written on exclusively.

Three years or more ago an idea originated in the Blue Grass League of southwestern Iowa, of the creation of a palace to be built on the fair grounds at Creston, in Union county, being the most central location in the regions, and where each of the aforesaid counties, all members of the league, might exhibit the products of their soils—a place where people might meet together in one grand holiday exposition after the harvest was past and the summer ended. The idea met with the approval of all officers and members of the league, and the palace was built and thrown open to the public on August 26, 1889, and each county in the league occupied a separate booth in the very unique structure, where they exhibited all their fruits, vegetables, grasses and grains, products of the dairy, wood, coal, sandstone, marble and numerous articles from the manufacturing industries throughout the blue grass regions. Here was certainly one of the grandest scenes ever witnessed by people in any country under the sun. A magnificent structure completely covered with all the varieties of grasses and golden grains grown in the blue grass regions, manipulated with all the beautiful flowers of the fields, the architecture being handsomely wrought in all the novel decorations, giving it a decided appearance of those grand old palaces or hanging-gardens of ye

olden times, of which we have often read in the oldest and best history of the world. It not only presented an interesting and charming appearance, but one of great study as well to a vast multitude who gazed upon the sublime beauty and lofty magnificence of the only original blue grass palace in the world.

The palace of 1889 proving such a splendid ovation, the league decided that the one of 1890 should far surpass in true beauty and elegance the one of the year before, so it was enlarged to three times the former size and thrown open to the public again on August 26, 1890, and the whole world has learned through this palace the wonders of the blue grass regions in southwestern Iowa.

The front of this beautiful structure, composed entirely of the products of the soil, faces the east, and has a total length from north to south of 265 feet and is 132 feet wide, the main tower in the center of the building being 120 feet high, while on the north and south wings are two towers ninety feet high; over the main entrance on the east side is another tower 100 feet in length, which, with several smaller towers, give the building a grand appearance, and far surpasses, both in the exterior and the interior finish, the one of 1889, and contains more than three times the amount of space, giving each county in the league just double the room it had the year previous. The entire south wing of the new building is devoted entirely to a vast auditorium, which seats comfortably 2,000 people. Eighteen counties chose their respective booths in the new building in which to make their exhibits, the Ottumwa Coal Palace Association one, while the Northern Pacific Railroad Company chose two, in which to exhibit samples of the excellent products from the famous section of country along their line of road from St. Paul to Puget sound. The remaining booths

were occupied by the District Fair Association with a most interesting display, while numerous business firms of Creston occupied large space on the gallery floor.

This great exposition and industrial exhibit was opened to the world at large on August 26, 1890, by Gov. Horace Boies, the palace governor of Iowa, with all the pride and splendor which all true Iowans know so well how to assume. The noted Iowa State Band of Des Moines accompanied the governor and staff, and discoursed music on this occasion calculated to stir the innermost depths of the human soul. The vast and beautifully decorated auditorium in the south wing of the lovely building was filled to overflowing with a sea of happy faces, while the handsome galleries above fairly groaned beneath the burden of an eager, anxious humanity, and, when the highest executive of the greatest state in the Union stepped to the front of the large stage so exquisitely decorated with all the products of our soil, and looked upon all the luxurious grandeur surrounding him, the enthusiasm was so great that thousands of handkerchiefs fluttered to the breeze, while cheers of greeting went up from the mouths of over 4,000 people. Such scenes as were witnessed here on the opening day of the palace of 1890 are perhaps only experienced but once in a single life, and are certainly grand beyond description; they must be seen to be appreciated. Scarcely had the sweet notes of the beautiful rendition, "Hail to the Chief," died away when the governor expressed himself as highly delighted with the magnificent palace and decorations, which were the most beautiful and elaborate ever seen on the continent. "There is always something new under the sun, and this beautiful palace, constructed of the products of our soil, demonstrates this fact to our people. This structure is indeed

wonderful to look upon, and all lovers of art and nature are both delighted and interested as they gaze upon this great monument of industry and enterprise erected by the people of southwest Iowa, and by them exquisitely decorated with all the products of a rich soil."

One of the most conspicuous and novel features of this palace is the royal suspension bridge stretching from north to south on the highest portion of the building, twelve feet wide, from which a magnificent view of Creston and the beautiful surrounding country is obtained; also of the race tracks below, on which wonderful records of speed are made every day during the exposition.

Union county being the home of the Blue Grass Palace, and also the home of the writer, we will dwell at some length on a description of the same and of the city of Creston, her county seat and the metropolis of southwest Iowa. Should we show any partiality in the description of our own county, we hope to be pardoned by our friends living in other portions of the state.

Union county is beautifully situated in the southwestern part of Iowa, between Adams and Clarke, while Madison and Adair join lands with her on the north, and a county called Ringold looks upon her with favor from the south. Creston, the county seat, contains over 8,000 inhabitants, and is located on the highest crest of land between the majestic Mississippi, which marks the eastern boundary of our state, and the great Missouri that bounds it on the west, 190 miles west of Burlington and 110 east of Omaha, Neb.; it is also situated on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which penetrates the county from east to west by main line, and from north to south by branches.

The country surrounding Creston is high and undulating, with a landscape of great beauty in all directions, while handsome brick blocks adorn the principal streets of the city, solidly built, denoting great business prosperity. A complete system of water-works is in construction, which, when finished, will furnish a constant supply of pure water to her inhabitants. A fine Westinghouse electric light plant furnishes incandescent light for lighting streets and buildings, and the city has an efficient free delivery system of the mails and one of the finest-equipped fire departments in the west.

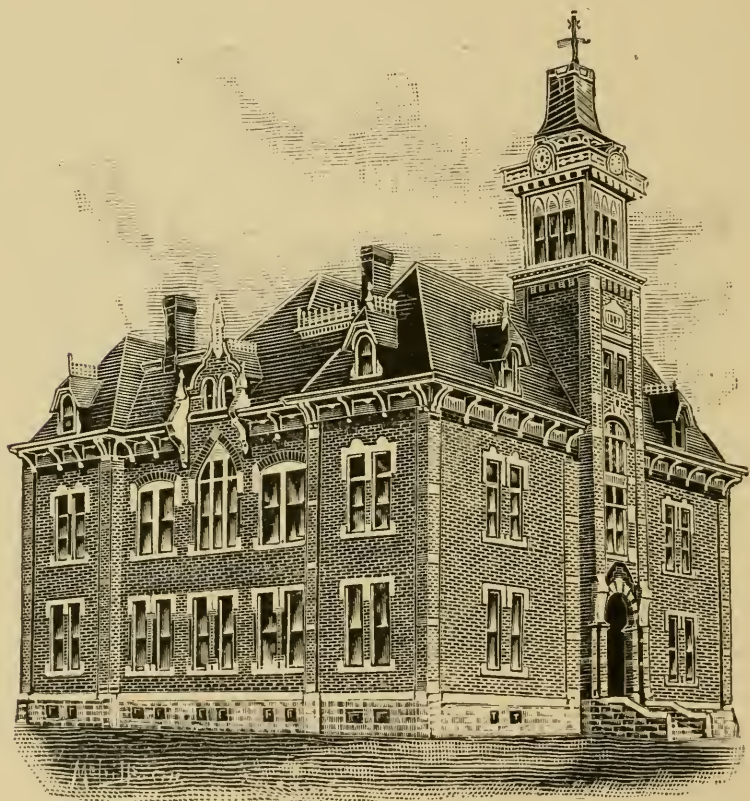


LAKE MAURINE, NEAR CRESTON.

Creston now contains an area of 2,540 acres, with a total of eighty-five miles of streets and as much of sidewalks; it has a frontage of brick buildings amounting to nearly 3,000 feet, which are estimated to be worth about \$100,000. There is a good system of sewerage established, and miles of water-mains leading through the principal streets of the city. The railroad tracks and buildings occupy about ten blocks of



the original plat and mark a dividing line between the north and south sides, the business portion of the city lying north of the tracks. A handsome court-house was erected on North



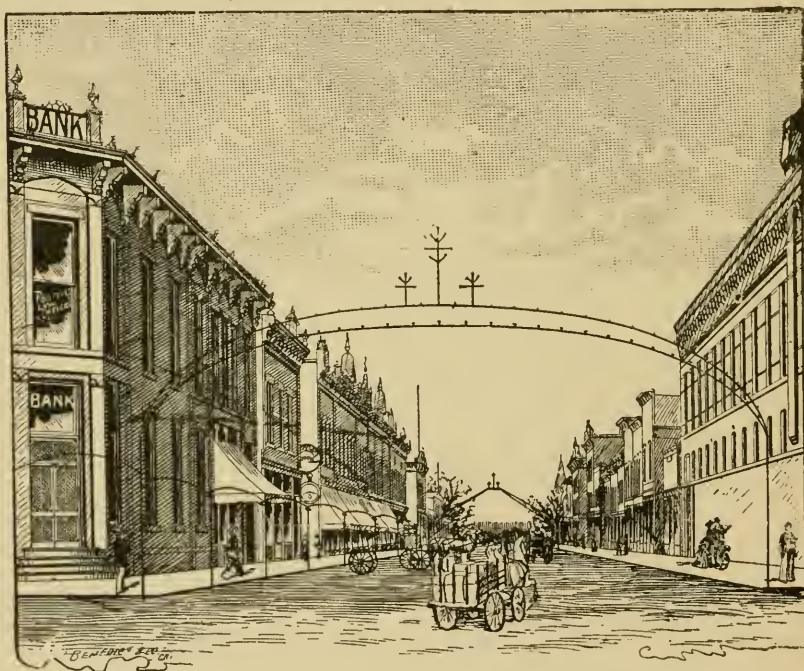
COURT-HOUSE.

Pine street about one year ago at a cost of \$30,000, which is an ornament to the city, and one of the finest public buildings in southwestern Iowa. The height to the top of the brick

work is fifty-six feet, and to the final ninety feet. The lower story is used for auditor, clerk of court, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, county attorney and superintendent of schools, and contains five vaults. There is a double stairway in front, and single stairway in the rear leading up to the second floor, where a large court-room is located. This room is 36x60 feet, and twenty-four-foot ceiling. The council chamber is 17x40 feet; the room for grand and petit juries, and private chamber for judge of superior court are on this floor. A splendid public-school system, of which every true Iowan is justly proud, finds a permanent home in Creston and Union county; four commodious brick school-houses of three stories each, three frame and one new modern high school are found in the city of Creston, and no section of country is more favorably located as to district schools. The buildings are mostly of frame, with good furniture and all the modern appliances for the rapid development of the mind and body. The various religious denominations have good church homes both in the city and country. No state in the Union has a larger per cent. of intelligence among the masses than Iowa, and no county has more people who can read and write, and a larger number professing the Christian religion according to the population, than Union county. The rapid growth of this city is largely due to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy shops being located here, which employ a great number of men; being also a division station large numbers employed in the train service necessarily make their homes here, and being the county seat her prospects are fine for becoming a large and prosperous city.

A handsome brick depot with limestone trimmings is in contemplation by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and will no doubt be built next spring. An elegant brick block

has just been completed on the corner of Adams and Pine streets, one block north of the Union depot, the lower floor of which is already filled with business firms, while the upper stories are being fitted for the elegant new Ewing hotel, and will be opened about March 1. This block is known as the Gibson-Griffin block, and is one of the finest in southern Iowa; the



SCENE LOOKING NORTH ON MAPLE STREET.

rooms all being new and supplied with elegant furnishings make it a preferable resort for the traveling public. Mr. R. E. Ewing, the proprietor, is a thorough business man of great energy, and has hosts of friends in the blue grass regions of

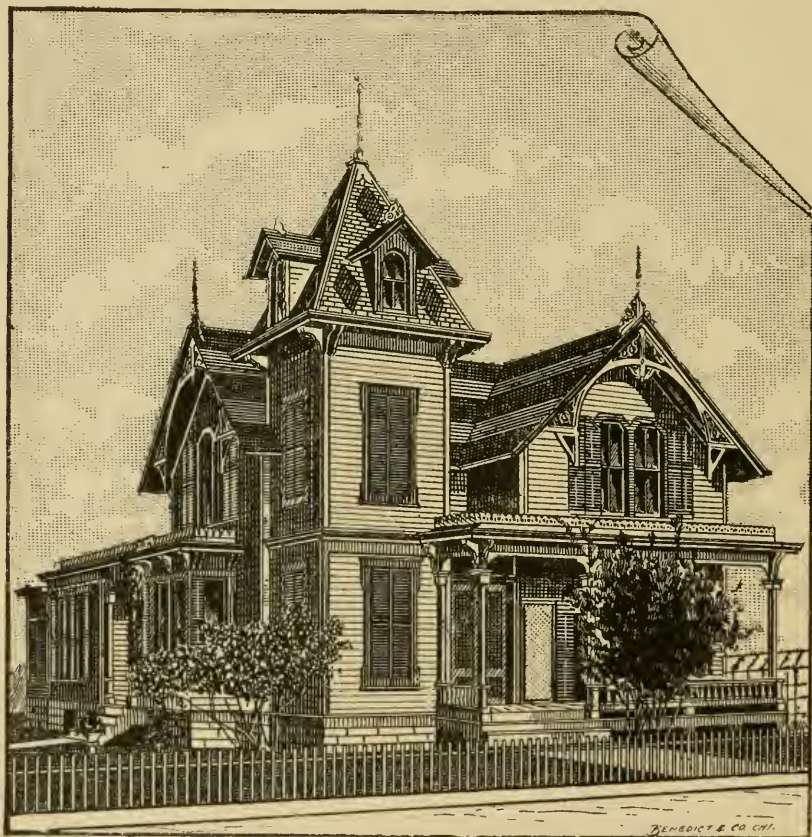
southwestern Iowa. This hotel, under the management of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ewing, will be strictly first-class in every respect, and, in the selection of help necessary to carry on such a hotel, none but competent men and women of large experience have been engaged. This hotel is one of the long-felt wants of the palace city, and we hope to see it liberally patronized by the traveling public. Reader, when you come up to Creston to see the blue grass palace of 1891, you will find all that is desirable in this hotel, one block north of the depot. Creston is prepared to entertain in first-class style all the strangers who may enter her gates, as the Summit House, corner of Adams and Elm streets, is also a fine hotel, three stories in height and contains about seventy rooms; it is operated by Mr. James Beck, formerly of Fairfield, who understands fully the art of catering to the public, having had years of experience in the business. This hotel is also first-class in every respect, and accommodates a large share of the traveling public.

The Hotel De Miller on the south side is a well-kept house, and during the past year has done a good business; it serves excellent meals at very reasonable rates.

A number of other smaller hotels and private boarding-houses are found in the city, and also a number of good restaurants; among the latter is Schorr's European restaurant, recently opened in the new Gibson-Griffin block, one of the finest in the state and a place where the most fastidious may go and be served with all the delicacies which the season affords. Suppers for public and private balls and parties are furnished on short notice, and everything the epicurean could wish for is prepared in style at moderate prices, and meals are served at all hours. B. L. Schorr has the finest location in the city and certainly deserves the liberal patronage which he receives.



All the different classes of business necessary to supply the demands of regions tributary to a city are carried on in Creston and several large wholesale houses have an extensive



RESIDENCE OF W. F. PATT.

trade in the city and with many towns in the surrounding counties.

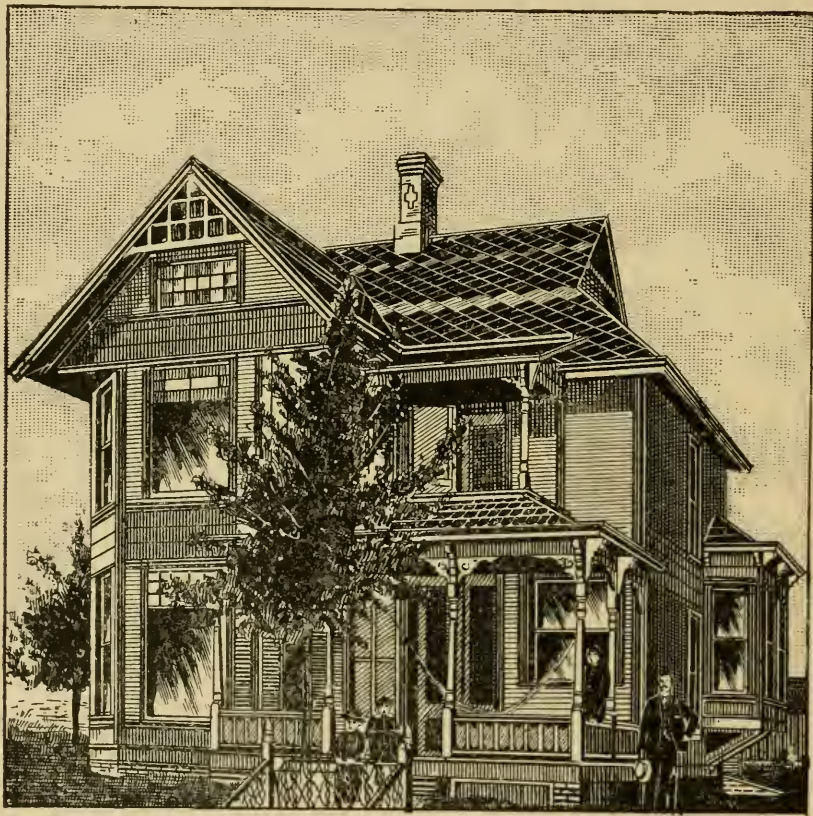


## GROCERIES.

The largest retail grocery establishment is the firm of Scurr & Cotten, located on North Pine, East Montgomery and West Adams streets. This firm came to the city about six years ago, and by the excellent manner in which they have dealt with the public have been very successful in business, and have won both fame and distinction in the palace city and throughout the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa. Scurr & Cotten employ about twenty-five clerks and two experienced bookkeepers in the three places of business, paying out monthly large sums of money, which circulate in this city. The lower store on North Pine and an elegant china hall on East Montgomery are under the supervision of Mr. James Scurr, while the "West End Grocery," on West Adams street, is successfully operated by Mr. S. R. Cotten; each grocery has a first-class meat market in connection, which makes it very convenient for people to trade with them. Both of these gentlemen are first-class, energetic business men, and are certainly deserving of the immense trade they receive both in the city and country. This firm occupied large space on the gallery floor of the blue grass palace of 1890, with an elegant display of groceries, queensware and cured meats, which was greatly admired by all visitors.

The next retail grocery of interest in this city is located on North Maple street, in merchants' block, is owned and operated by Mr. A. P. Munson, and bears the name of the "Palace Grocery." Mr. Munson has been a resident of Creston for a number of years, and has built up a large trade; he is a business man of great merit. He employs five clerks and one experienced bookkeeper, and has a complete system of the Barr cash carrier in operation. Order and neatness always

prevail in the Palace Grocery, which is filled with an excellent stock of goods carried only in a first-class grocery store, and there is a well-equipped meat market in connection.



RESIDENCE OF R. S. KEITH.

Near the corner of Adams and Maple streets, in the Mallory block, is located another prosperous grocery store. A sign swinging to the breeze reads "M. A. Nye," and we are led to

believe that he may be a brother of "Bill Nye" of *Boomerang* fame, but on entering the store and becoming acquainted with the genial proprietor we find that, although he bears a family resemblance to "Bill," he is not related. Mr. Nye carries a splendid stock of groceries, runs a large bakery in connection, has long been a resident of Creston and has gradually risen to the top rung of the ladder; always courteous and pleasant to the public, he has made many friends in Creston and throughout southwest Iowa.

Passing up Adams street on our way to the postoffice we notice another retail grocery on the left hand near Elm street. The sign reads "Ed W. Graham," and we enter and find a large stock of neatly arranged goods on the shelves and pleasant clerks ready to wait upon all customers. We are informed that Mr. Graham has long been a resident of the palace city, while his grocery is one of the old landmarks; he has also been chief of the fire department for a number of years, and has at all times been highly regarded by the citizens of this city for services rendered in that capacity.

The fifth grocery store is located on Montgomery street, between Maple and Pine streets, in the Eagle block. This firm is well and favorably known both in the city and country, and bears the name of Irwin & Hawk. These gentlemen are among the rising young business men of this city, having had much experience in the grocery business. Their trade steadily increases as the years go by. They carry a full line of everything known to the retail grocery trade, and the store presents an air of neatness and will bear a personal inspection.

The Pioneer Grocery of Evershed & Cartright, on North Pine street, is also worthy of notice; therefore, on our rounds we will give them a call. We find that Mr. C. Evershed has

been in the grocery business for many years and that Mr. Cart-right has also had years of experience in this line of trade. They are both agreeable and first-class business men, and carry a large stock of goods, supplying the wants of numerous customers both in the city and country.



SCENE LOOKING WEST ON MONTGOMERY STREET.

J. W. Waterman of south side fame is an old resident of the palace city, and has the honor of having the largest retail grocery store in that part of the city, having a fine location on Union street, between Elm and Maple. We find in his



store a full and complete stock of groceries and queensware, from which Mr. Waterman supplies a large trade in the city and country. He employs several efficient clerks and one experienced bookkeeper, who are always ready to serve the public.

There are numerous other retail grocery firms in this city, all doing a good business, and Creston is certainly well supplied in this line of trade.

#### DRY GOODS.

Dry goods is the next class of business largely represented in the blue grass palace city, and we boast of having eight prosperous firms, active in supplying a large city and country trade. The first one which claims our attention is the handsome store of Phil. A. Derr, corner of North Pine and East Montgomery streets. Mr. Derr carries a mammoth stock of goods, seemingly large enough to supply the wants of the whole blue grass regions; he has been in the dry goods business in Creston since it became an innorporated village, and is well and favorably known throughout the whole of southwest Iowa, his trade extending far beyond the limits of his own county. The stock of goods carried by Mr. Derr is first-class and complete in every department and presided over by clerks of long experience. Mr. Derr employs, in all, about ten clerks and one efficient bookkeeper. When our readers come up to the blue grass palace of 1891 it will pay them to look through Phil A. Derr's large dry goods emporium, where a cordial welcome is extended to all.

The second dry goods store of interest in this city is that of Bennison Bros., on North Maple street. This firm occupies a neat two-story red brick building, which is filled with as fine



a stock of dry goods as is carried in the blue grass regions, and uses an excellent system of the Barr cash carrier. The dry goods and notions are on the lower floor, while the carpets, curtains, oil cloths, rugs and mattings are above. Every department in the store is presided over by an experienced clerk. Bennison Bros. have been in the dry goods business here for a number of years, employ a large force and command a fine trade both in the city and country. They also run a large establishment in Omaha, Neb.

Merchants' block on North Maple street contains another large dry goods store, which is a well-known one, the proprietors having grown up in the dry goods business in the blue grass palace city, it being no other than that of Cullen & Bullard, who, by courteous and liberal treatment of the public, command a very large trade in the city and surrounding country. They carry an excellent line of dry goods and notions, curtains and carpets, and employ a number of competent clerks and one good bookkeeper. The business of this firm has rapidly assumed a magnitude of importance second to none in the city.

A little farther west on Maple street, in the elegant brick block owned by Mr. W. N. Kelley, one of Creston's most substantial business men, is Kelley's cash bargain store. Mr. Kelley occupies the handsome corner room of this building with an excellent stock of dry goods, notions, carpets and general merchandise, and has been in the business here for years, understanding fully the wants of the public. Mr. Kelley draws a large trade to our city from all parts of Union county and from large territories tributary to Creston. In the selection of help necessary to carry on a general store, Mr. Kelley employed none but those fully competent to wait upon the large trade which he has built up on strictly upright, honest, business

principles. The Kelley block is three stories in height, and one of the handsomest specimens of architecture in the blue grass palace city.

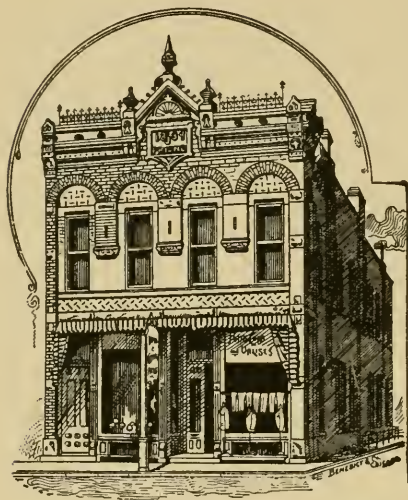
On East Adams street, between Maple and Pine, in the Gibson-Griffin block, is a general store owned and operated by James Griffin, who is one of Creston's substantial merchants. This store contains a fine stock of dry goods and groceries and general merchandise, and Mr. Griffin's trade extends over large territories of country aside from a large city trade. He is also largely identified with the interests of the blue grass palace city, and the handsome new block just finished on the corner of Adams and Pine streets was built by himself and Mr. John Gibson. Mr. Griffin has also been an efficient member of the Creston School Board for a number of years.

The stock of goods carried by Mr. J. Yeager on North Pine street, consisting of dry goods and clothing, is a great place for bargains, while Mr. Yeager himself is an old and esteemed citizen of Union county, having recently removed to Creston from Afton, where he carried on an extensive business for years, and still continues to draw a large share of patronage from the people of Union county.

#### CLOTHING.

The third class of business largely represented in Creston, which is necessary to supply a large trade in the city and surrounding territory, is that of clothing. There are eight prosperous concerns in the blue grass palace city, which carry clothing, hats, caps and gentlemen's furnishing goods. The first and largest is that of L. Friend, on North Pine street. Mr. Friend, the genial proprietor, came to Creston when the town was in its infancy, and has been very prosperous in this

line of business. Two years or more ago he built the elegant brick store which he now occupies, and which is one of the finest



CLOTHING STORE OF L. FRIEND.

in southwest Iowa, lighted by electricity and heated by steam, while the interior finish is of hard oiled pine. This handsome store is filled with a full and complete stock of all the first-class goods known to the clothing trade and each department is presided over by pleasant and agreeable clerks. Mr. Friend is well and favorably known over large territories of country surrounding Creston and commands a fine trade among the people of southwest Iowa.

The second clothing firm is that of Derr & Smith, also located on North Pine street, between Adams and Montgomery. These gentlemen embarked in the clothing business about five years ago, and, by the excellent manner in which they have waited upon the public, now command a large trade in the city and surrounding country. Their stock of goods is complete in all departments and they employ none but agreeable and competent clerks to wait upon customers. Derr & Smith are old residents of Creston, having been in the dry goods business previous to entering the clothing interests of the blue grass palace city.

The third clothing firm is pleasantly located on West Adams street, between Elm and Maple, and bears the name of the Chicago Clothing Company. This store is under the super-

vision of Mr. J. L. Ogg, who is a gentleman of more than ordinary business ability. Mr. Ogg came to the blue grass palace city about six years ago as manager of the Chicago Clothing Company, and since his sojourn here has given excellent satisfaction, both to the company he represents and the public at large in the blue grass regions of Iowa. The stock of goods carried by this firm is first-class in every department, and presided over by clerks of large experience in the clothing business. Mr. Ogg has made many friends in Creston and Union county and his store is always filled with a good class of customers.

The fourth merchant dealing in this line is Col. O. Keefe, in the same block as the Chicago Clothing Company, who also has a splendid stock of clothing, hats, caps and gentlemen's furnishing goods and has a large city and country trade.

L. Newman, on the corner of Maple and Adams streets, has a fine location, and commands a large share of patronage both in the city and country.

Several dry goods merchants in the city carry lines of clothing; therefore, this business is certainly well represented in the palace city.

#### HARDWARE.

The fourth interesting class of business which claims our attention in this city is that of hardware, and five large stores represent this interest. The first is the elegant store of R. S. Keith & Co., located on North Maple street, in Merchants' block, who carry a mammoth stock of stoves and hardware, wagon wood, bar iron and steel. Mr. Keith is one of Creston's most successful merchants and has a fine trade. His display of stoves and granite ironware on the gallery floor of the blue grass

palace of 1890 was the wonder and admiration of all visitors to the palace.

James Ferman & Son, who have recently moved into elegant new quarters in the Mallory block, on Adams street, between Elm and Maple, which has just been completed, are at home to all their old friends, and also invite all strangers to call and look through their elegant stock of stoves, hardware, tinware and cutlery. Mr. Ferman is one of the most reliable business men of the palace city, while his son Charles is among the rising young business men of southwest Iowa.

Chas. Edgerton, on North Pine street, shows a full and complete line of everything known to the hardware trade, and is a young man of exceptionally fine business ability; he is also president of the Iowa State Savings Bank of this city.

J. H. Patt, on West Adams street, occupies commodious quarters in the Opera House block, which he owns, with as fine a stock of hardware as is carried in the blue grass regions. Mr. Patt deals also in dump scrapers and agricultural implements, is one of the leading merchants of southwest Iowa and one of Creston's most esteemed citizens.

A. R. Fuller carries a fine stock of hardware on North Pine street in connection with a large grocery store and commands a fine trade.

All of the above firms are composed of energetic business men, and all have done much toward the upbuilding of the blue grass palace city.

#### DRUGS.

The retail drug business is largely represented by seven different elegant places of business. First is the Summit drug store in Summit House block, of which J. W. Bagly has been



proprietor for a number of years; it has always given excellent satisfaction to the public, while the pharmacy has been under the supervision of Mr. Bagly himself, who has always taken exceeding pains to please all his patrons in this department. Mr. Bagly has lately purchased the Carpenter block, which he expects to occupy in the near future with an excellent stock of new drugs.

The second is the drug store of A. B. Henry, on the corner of Pine and Adams streets. Mr. Henry occupies handsome quarters in the corner room of the elegant new building under the Ewing hotel, where he carries an elaborate stock of drugs and fancy articles, having recently moved from the south side of the city, where he was successful in the same business for several years. Mr. Henry looks after the pharmacy department with great skill and is now situated to supply the wants of both north and south side residents.

The next drug store of interest in the palace city is that of George Leith, on North Maple street, in the Kelley block. Mr. Leith is one of Creston's successful young merchants, and carries a large stock of drugs and all goods connected with the trade, while the clerks employed are gentlemanly and obliging, and the pharmacy is looked after with care by Mr. Leith himself.

On East Montgomery street, in the Eagle block, is the drug store of E. A. Aldrich, which is one of the best in the city, filled with an excellent line of drugs and other goods carried by the trade. The pharmacy is first-class in every particular and presided over by competent prescription clerks. Mr. Aldrich has been in the drug business in Creston for a number of years, and is one of the leading merchants of the palace city.

James Schedeker, on North Pine street, has a cosy store and an excellent stock of drugs from which to supply the wants of his numerous customers.

#### BOOTS AND SHOES.

The boot and shoe business is carried on very extensively in the blue grass palace city, and six large stores carry boots and shoes exclusively. First is the firm of A. E. Keith & Son, on Adams street, between Elm and Maple, which carries a mammoth stock of all goods connected with this line of business, its trade extending over all portions of the city and country surrounding Creston.

The second is the firm of Winhafer & Fields, in the Kelley block on North Maple street, which also carries a fine line of boots, shoes, slippers, etc. Mr. Winhafer was connected with the boot and shoe business a number of years previous to his entering business for himself five years ago, as was also Mr. Fields.

The third is the boot and shoe firm of Noble & McClure, on North Maple street, which carries a splendid stock of goods, and low prices have won them a large trade in Creston and Union county.

The boot and shoe store of C. Eckerson, corner of North Pine and Montgomery streets, in the Pine street Opera House block, is another well-stocked store, and carries nothing but first-class goods. Mr. Eckerson has been identified with the interests of the blue grass palace city a number of years, and commands a fine trade both in the city and in Union county.

Thomas McGrath has a neat and cosy store on North Pine street, and is certainly deserving of the large patronage he receives. Courteous and liberal in all his dealings with the

public have been the means of winning him a large trade in Creston and the surrounding country. Mr. McGrath is largely interested in the palace city and contemplates the erection of a handsome brick block during the coming season.

#### FURNITURE.

In all parts of the world and in all cities the manufacture and sale of furniture are among the leading enterprises; therefore, this interest is one of the leading lines of business in this city. First is the elegant store of Mackemer Bros., on North Maple street in Merchants' block, which occupies two floors with an excellent quantity and quality of goods.

J. T. Horton, on North Maple street, also carries a full and complete stock of furniture, and is a pleasant and liberal gentleman who understands fully the wants of his customers, and one of the successful merchants in the blue grass palace city. His trade extends over the entire city and over large territories of country surrounding Creston, and he is certainly deserving of the large share of patronage he receives.

The new firm of Elmer Sterner & Company occupies handsome quarters in the Summit House block, two doors west of the postoffice, with an elegant stock of furniture, and invites the citizens of Creston and Union county to carefully inspect the store. The gentlemen who compose this firm grew from boyhood in the palace city, and have the full confidence and esteem of all their numerous friends in Creston and Union county. We predict for them a prosperous future

#### REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE.

While real estate is not exactly on the boom in Creston, sales are always steady the year round, and many large deals

were made in this line during the past year. Among the prominent real estate and insurance agents in the blue grass palace city may be mentioned the name of W. F. Patt, who has been in the real estate business in this city for a number of years, and is one of Creston's most energetic business men, always on the alert for something advantageous to his city and county. Mr. Patt represents a large business in this line, and is always ready to show property and tell of Creston's many advantages, and is now offering for thirty days 1,000 lots for sale on easy payments and good time

The next popular real estate agent is A. H. Spurr, one of Creston's rising young business men, who occupies elegant rooms in the new Mallory block, on Adams street, between Elm and Maple. Mr. Spurr was the leading photographer of southwest Iowa for a number of years, but sold out his business about two years ago and embarked in real estate, in which he has been very successful, having made some very large sales of city and country property during the past year.

J. L. Haverich, in Devoe's brick block, is another prominent real estate agent who makes numerous sales of city and country property, and is a pleasant and agreeable gentleman.

J. B. Kirch, in Merchants' block on North Maple street, is one of Creston's successful real estate dealers, and has made during the past year many sales of farm and city property.

Willet & Hitchcock, in the Eagle block, are engaged in the real estate business, and are favorably known in Creston and Union county, possessing the confidence and esteem of all who know them. They represent both city and farm property.

I. E. Rogers represents a large amount of city and farm property in Union county and is a gentleman of unusual business ability.

The Western Land Company, with H. Farley as its president and S. A. Eckerson as its secretary and treasurer, represent thousands of acres of improved lands in the blue grass regions of Iowa, and millions of acres of improved and wild lands in the west, and handle city property on the most favorable time payments.

The Creston Abstract Company, with E. S. Ketcham as manager, make a specialty of selling, exchanging and renting all kinds of real property. The members of this company have been in the business for years and are well versed therein.

#### LUMBER AND COAL

The lumber interests of Creston are largely represented by three well-equipped yards, which are as follows: C. S. Rex, on the corner of Montgomery and North Oak streets, has a large lumber yard, and carries coal and kindling wood in connection. Mr. Rex has built up a large trade in the city of Creston and in large territories of country tributary, and is an enterprising business man. Courteous and liberal treatment of the public has been the means of making him many friends in the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa.

The Gen. Palmer Lumber Company of Red Oak is represented in this city by I. W. Richardson, its manager, who is a gentleman of large experience in the lumber business, being thoroughly posted in every detail connected with it. This company handles also large quantities of coal and is located on West Adams street.

C. S. Millard conducts a large lumber yard on Oak and Montgomery streets, and handles coal in connection; he is numbered among Creston's enterprising merchants, and is also a member of the Creston school board.



The coal interest is largely represented in the palace city, there being numerous other firms handling coal aside from the lumber merchants. The first is that of I. R. Hogaboom, on North Pine street, who handles an excellent stock of farm implements, and coal in connection. Mr. Hogaboom is one of Creston's best citizens and successful merchants, having been in this line of business here for years, and commands a large trade both in the city and country.

I. Worthington & Co., in East Creston, handle large quantities of coal and wood, and are proprietors of a large elevator near the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy tracks in that part of the city. Mr. R. R. Palmer is the successful manager of this firm, who, since his location in Creston, has built up a large trade. Mr. Palmer is a business man of rare ability and gives excellent satisfaction to all customers who trade with him.

E. C. Lucas deals extensively in farm implements and coal on North Pine street and receives a large patronage from the citizens of Creston and Union county.

F. J. Taylor, in West Creston, dealer in grain and seeds, handles large quantities of coal in connection, and owns the largest elevator in the city, near the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy tracks. Mr. Taylor has been closely identified with the interests of the blue grass palace city for a number of years and has done much toward the upbuilding of the same. His name is as familiar as a household word throughout the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa, being also well and favorably known throughout the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, and he was at one time the heaviest grain-shipper over the Illinois Central railroad at Chebanse, Ill.; subsequently he was one of the largest shippers on the main line of the "Q." road at Emerson, in Mills county, Iowa, (one of the very richest

counties in the blue grass regions), from which he shipped in one year 1,600 cars of corn. In 1883 he built a large ele-



F. J. TAYLOR.

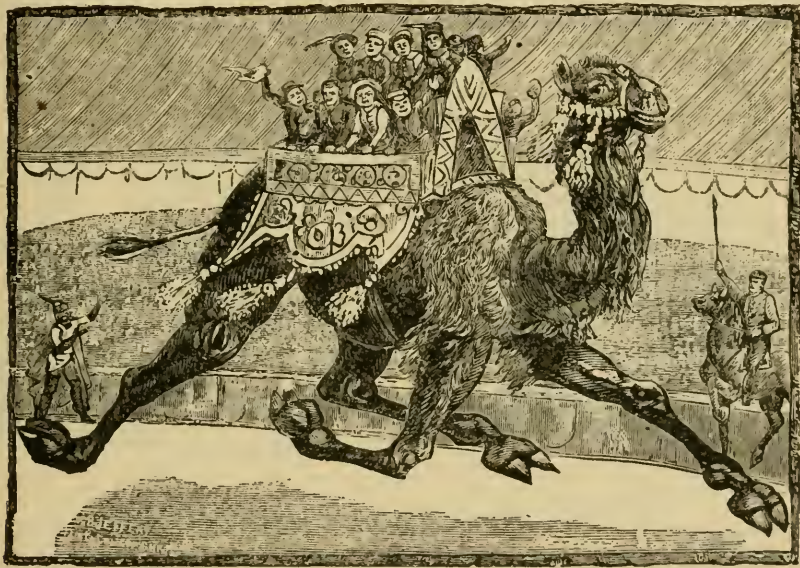
vator in the palace city. Mr. Taylor has served four successive terms of office as mayor of Creston, but left no marks upon its

history save those of honest, upright, active service. The affairs of the palace city were never in better condition than during his administration, nor have they been since. In the year 1889 Mr. Taylor organized the great American Circus, Museum and Menagerie, first-class in every department, which he has conducted for the past two years in a strictly honest and gentlemanly manner; during his absence his coal, grain and seed business has been carefully looked after by Mr. Chas. Snyder, who has been in Mr. Taylor's employ since 1882 and is one of the leading young business men of the palace city.

Mr. Taylor's record as a first-class business man has been clearly demonstrated in the organization of this show, which has at all times and in all places been conducted on thorough, honest, business principles. In the selection of artists he has been very careful in securing the best moral talent the country affords; in fact, all his numerous attractions have been selected with taste and skill, particularly avoiding anything pertaining to an inferior class. The great American Circus, Museum and Menagerie is now in winter quarters at Mr. Taylor's elegant home in the palace city, and in looking through the stable we find that his ring stock is unsurpassed in the United States. We have the pleasure of looking upon the handsomest pure-blooded white Arabian horse yet brought to the United States, the blood of which animal has always been sacred to the Arab race. This horse has been beautifully trained and is as graceful as a fairy.

Among the leading attractions in the carnivora are two of the finest and largest camels in the world. Samson, the towering giant of the Arabian desert, is a noble-looking animal. It may be doubted if the people in the west ever overcome the impression made upon them by the first view of a camel equipped and loaded for the desert. Custom al to other

novelties, affects this feeling, but little; people wherever they may be, will stop and wait the passing of the stately brute. The charm is not in the figure, which not even love can make beautiful, nor in the movement, the noiseless stepping or the broad career. As is the kindness of the sea to a ship, so is that of the desert to a camel. It clothes him with all its mysteries, in such a manner, too, that while we are looking at him we are



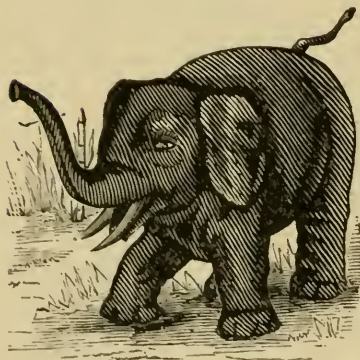
SAMSON.

thinking of them; therein is the wonder. Its color and height, its breadth of foot, its bulk of body, not fat, but overlaid with muscle; its long slender neck of swan-like curvature; the head, wide between the eyes and tapering to a muzzle which a lady's bracelet might almost clasp; its step long and elastic, tread sure and soundless—all certify its true Syrian blood



A bold and fierce-looking lion, the most fearless of living creatures, paces back and forth in his cage, and longs for his home in the African forest. The natives of that country, believing that the souls of their dead chiefs enter the bodies of these animals, into which they also have the power when living of transforming themselves at will, never kill them, and when meeting these animals salute them by clapping their hands, a courtesy which his highness frequently returns by making a meal of them.

The elephant has always been considered one of the



ROMEO.



BEAUTY.

greatest of living curiosities, and everybody goes to the show, of course, to see the "elephant"; therefore, a show without this "beautiful" creature would be as nothing to the average American. Mr. Taylor has been fortunate in securing one of the best that money could buy, and really he is a handsome creature, and well trained to perform all tricks known to the elephant family.

There are many other attractions connected with Mr. Taylor's show, but we have neither the time nor space to



describe them in this work, and will add in conclusion that he has traveled over large territories of country during the past two years, and the public, the press, the traveling men, the railroad men and, in fact, everybody confirms the report that F. J. Taylor's great American Circus, Museum and Menagerie is the cleanest and best show traveling in the United States. This show, which opens out for the coming season in the palace city about April 23 with the finest class of attractions in the world, belongs to the long list of leading institutions in the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa.

#### MANUFACTORIES.

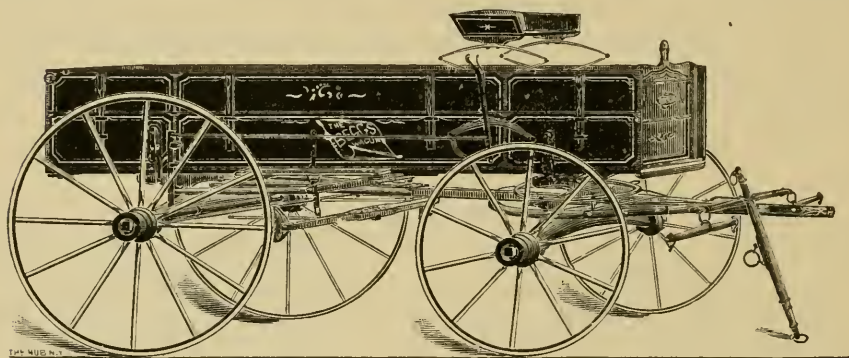
W. H. Bradford, the genial proprietor of the Creston roller mills, controls the largest manufacturing establishment in the palace city, the capacity of which is eighty barrels per day, and has a full roller system and all the new and improved machinery methods and processes for manufacturing the finest grades of flour; the property is worth \$30,000. Mr. Bradford is one of Creston's enterprising merchants, and has always contributed liberally of his means to all public undertakings by which the city has been benefited.

Beggs Bros., wholesale manufacturers of wagons, transfer, express, truck and all other kinds of business wagons, carriages, buggies and road-carts, have one of the most successful manufacturing industries in southwest Iowa, and use all the improved machinery necessary in carrying on a first-class establishment. Their capacity aside from carriage construction is 300 wagons a year, which are shipped to all parts of the country.

The following cut represents a handsome farm wagon made by Beggs Bros., which for durability cannot be excelled by any other manufacturer of farm wagons in the state. This

firm came to the palace city about two years ago, and have been very successful in this line of business; they employ a large force and command a fine trade in Creston and southwest Iowa.

L. D. McClintock, on East Montgomery street, is a fine workman of long experience in the construction of carriages,



wagons and road-carts, and manufactures a good, substantial class of goods.

A large sash factory on North Elm street, owned and operated by J. W. Bartlett, is quite an industry in the palace city and turns out sashes, doors, blinds and the other kinds of work connected with such a factory.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The firm of Swan & Becker, dealers exclusively in butter and eggs, are conveniently located in West Creston, near the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and are well worthy of notice, being large buyers, packers and shippers of one of the greatest and most profitable industries in the blue grass regions. Col. Swan, the proprietor, is an old and highly

esteemed citizen of the blue grass palace city, having been one of the proprietors of the Summitt House for many years previous to entering this business. The trade of this firm reaches over the whole of southern Iowa, while large quantities of butter and eggs are shipped to southern and eastern markets.

The Creston Gas and Electric Light works are located in East Creston, while the office of the manager, Mr. O. Q. Holman, who also deals largely in coal, drain tile and sewer pipe, is located on North Elm street. Mr. Holman is one of the leading business men of the city, having but recently completed the handsome building which he now occupies.

The firm of Burket Bros., on the corner of Maple and Montgomery streets, dealers in artists' supplies and moldings, also manufacturers of picture frames and window shades, funeral directors and embalmers, are the leaders in these lines in the palace city. Both of these gentlemen are well and favorably known in Creston and Union county, being greatly interested in the growth of the palace city, and are building up a fine trade in the city and country surrounding Creston.

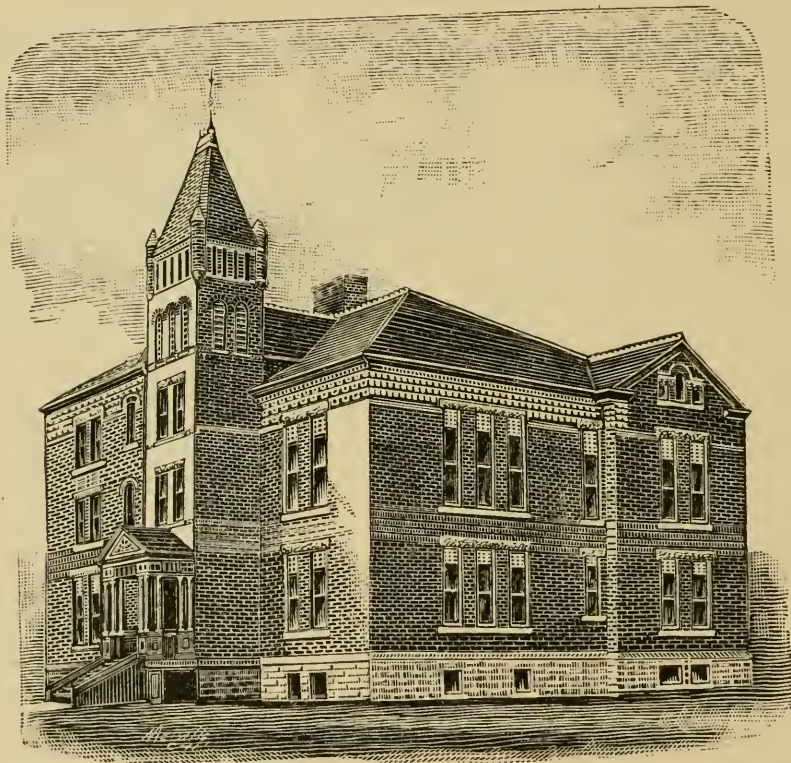
#### JEWELERS.

There are three first-class jewelry stores in the blue grass palace city, and the first is that of J. B. Schanubur, on North Pine street, who carries an elegant stock of goods, and commands a fine trade in Creston and Union county.

S. A. Bowers, on North Maple street, is prepared to serve the public from an excellent line of jewelry and watches, such as is only carried by a first-class firm. Mr. Bowers has been in the jewelry business in Creston for a number of years and commands a fine share of trade in the city and country. W. A. Woodward, dealer in musical instruments and carrying a full

stock of pianos and organs, occupies handsome quarters with Mr. Bowers.

G. H. Daniels, on Adams street, between Elm and Maple carries an excellent stock of jewelry and watches; he is also



HIGH SCHOOL.

watch inspector for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad company at this place.

There are numerous other interesting and profitable classes of business represented in the palace city, but time and space

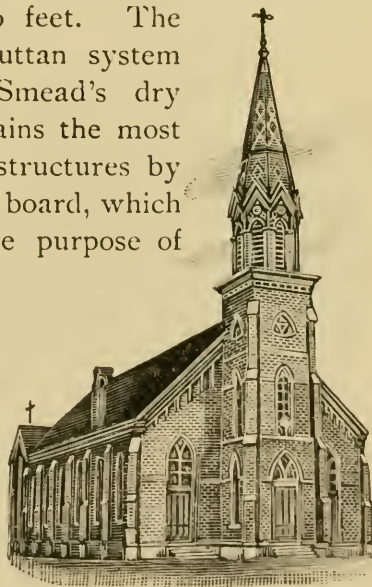


forbid the giving of every advantage possessed by Creston, the county seat of Union county and metropolis of southwest Iowa. We will, therefore, hurry on with a brief description of her schools and churches.

The most pretentious school building which has been erected in this city is that of the high school on the corner of Elm and Mills streets, the site of the old high school building. The new structure combines features of various styles of architecture, but the characteristic of the Norman predominates. The walls are of Kansas City pressed brick, resting on a stone foundation, with limestone trimmings. The ground plan is about 80x80 feet. The building is furnished with the Ruttan system of heating and ventilating and Smead's dry closet system. The building contains the most desirable features found in similar structures by a committee of the Creston school board, which visited a number of cities for the purpose of arranging the most commendable plans. The result of their work is satisfactory to all; cost, \$24,000.

Creston's churches are a source of pride to its people, who realize that without their influence there can be no good, and the substantial growth in any of the lines of commendable progress.

First is the new Catholic church on the south side, of Gothic structure, and one of the handsomest in the west; it is built of brick with limestone trimmings, and cost, including the



ST. MALACHY'S CHURCH.



grounds, about \$36,000. The congregation of St. Malachy's numbers about 175 families, who reside in and about Creston. The Very Rev. Stephen Lyons, O. S. B., of St. Vincent's Abbey, Pennsylvania, has charge of the Creston parish. Young, able, energetic and of broad education, he has won the hearts of all his people.

The new Congregational church, corner Montgomery and Division streets, is a handsome Gothic edifice and cost with the grounds about \$17,000. It has four entrances and the interior is



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

splendidly arranged for the various needs of the congregation and beautifully finished. The rich stained-glass windows are an important feature of its beauty. The pastor is Rev. Allan J. VanWagner, a refined and highly educated gentleman, whose talents are far above those of the average minister of the gospel, and who has done much toward making his church one of the most successful in southwest Iowa. The membership numbers about

300

The First Methodist Episcopal church, corner of Elm and Howard streets, is a fine, commodious building, the style of architecture being mainly Gothic. Its walls are of brick, resting upon a solid stone foundation, the interior finish being of hard southern pine, while the windows are of the finest stained glass. The seating capacity is 1,200 and cost \$19,000. Rev. C. W. Blodget is the present pastor of this church, having been pastor of the same congregation some nine years ago. Rev. Blodget

is a universal favorite, not only among his own people, but with all denominations in Creston and southwest Iowa. This church has a membership of over 500.

The First Presbyterian church, on West Adams street, has one of the finest locations in the city; it is built of solid red brick masonry, and has a membership of over 200. Rev. W. H. Snyder, the pastor, is a young man of excellent education and universally esteemed by the people of the blue grass palace city.

The United Presbyterian church, corner of West Montgomery and Chestnut streets, is a neat frame building and has a membership of over 100. Rev. L. N. Lafferty is pastor of this congregation; he is an able and earnest worker, and the church, with its several societies, is doing good work under his pastorate.

The First Baptist church, corner of Maple and Mills streets, is a fine frame edifice, with a congregation numbering over 150. Rev. Powell of Chicago has recently become its pastor and it is very prosperous under his pastorate.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Swedish Baptist, corner of North Vine and Mills streets, is a neat, white frame, with a membership of about sixty.

The Christian church, corner of Mills and North Elm streets, is a cozy frame structure, the congregation of which numbers over 200; the accommodations being small for so great a number a new church is talked of for the near future.

The Evangelical church, corner of Walnut and Mills streets, is among the first in the city, having been established as a mission in 1869; it is a neat frame building, with a membership of over 100.

The Swedish Methodist church occupies a neat frame edifice on the corner of Howard and Maple streets, with a membership of about seventy-five.

The German Lutherans, on South Maple street, have a nice, neat church building, parsonage and school-house, all in connection, and the pastor has charge of the school, which he conducts very successfully on Saturdays and during the vacation of the English schools, so that all may have a chance to learn the German language.

The African Methodist church was organized in the spring of 1888 and occupies a neat building on South Maple street, the pulpit being filled every two weeks by an able pastor from Osceola

In giving the schools of Creston we have almost forgotten to mention the business college, corner of Maple and Adams streets, in the Mallory block, which is among the leading educational institutions of southwest Iowa. This college is under the management of Professor and Mrs. W. H. Barrett, who have proved themselves fully competent for the work connected therewith; it receives a large share of students from southern Iowa, and is very popular with business men and prominent educators in the southwest part of the state.

Secret and fraternal orders are well represented in Creston and have been since the organization of the town. The I. O. O. F. society in 1886 built an elegant brick block on the corner of Pine and Mills streets. The building is brick veneering upon solid stone foundations 30x110 feet and is two stories

in height. The upper floor is divided into a spacious hallway, two anterooms, from which open the lodge room proper, and the banquet room. Ash trimmings, stained-glass windows and splendid furnishings make it a handsome and pleasant place in which to meet. The entire cost was \$6,000.

The well and favorably known wholesale establishment of B. F. Heinly & Co. is located on the lower floor of this building, and none is more deserving of special notice than the above firm, one of the best wholesale grocery houses in southern Iowa. Since the opening of their business in this line they have been favored with an excellent trade, brought about through the good management and enterprise of each of the members of the firm, until at present they are doing a business amounting each year to \$500,000. They handle all lines of groceries and their trade extends over large territories of country, requiring the constant services of a number of employes. Mr. Heinly was among the first settlers of Creston, having located here when the town was in its infancy.

The wholesale house of A. J. Merrill & Co. is located on North Pine street; they first opened their doors for business in this city about six years ago, and are enjoying a constantly increasing trade. They now have commodious quarters in the Harsh and Burch brick block on North Pine street, where they occupy large space. The firm should be proud of the record they have established, as certainly every enterprising citizen of Creston is proud to count their store among her leading business industries.

The Creston Lounge Company is the name of a new manufacturing firm in the palace city. The members of this company are Geo. W. Auracher and Ed A. Aldrich, two of Creston's progressive business men. This company will engage in

the business of manufacturing lounges and parlor suites, and will occupy the entire building where Auracher's furniture store now is, with the exception of the front room on the first floor.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

There are seven newspapers published in the palace city, five weeklies and three dailies, all first-class journals. The first is the *Creston Advertiser*, which was established in Creston July 1, 1879, and has had a very successful journalistic career. In 1881 Mr. S. A. Brewster, the editor and proprietor, added to his business a bindery and blank-book manufactory, and the *Daily Advertiser* was started December 5, 1881, since when the various departments have been greatly added to, and Mr. Brewster to-day publishes one of the best daily and weekly newspapers in the blue grass regions or in the state of Iowa. Mr. Brewster has been sole owner and manager of the institution from its re-establishment in 1879, with but one exception, to the present time.

The *Creston Gazette* was established in the spring of 1873 by J. B. Harsh and C. M. Schultz, and has changed hands a great number of times, but for the past two years has been very successfully edited by J. B. Harsh and E. A. Brewster; while the former is one of the most popular speakers in the state of Iowa, the latter is as able a writer, therefore, their newspaper has a very large circulation in southern Iowa, both its weekly and daily editions.

The *Independent American* was removed from Afton to Creston by W. H. Robb, the present editor, in 1880, Mr. Robb having established the paper in Afton in January, 1887; he has been its sole publisher and proprietor, with the exception of about a year's partnership in 1886, during which time R. A.



Dague owned a half interest. In politics Mr. Robb's paper espouses the cause of the United Labor party, and it is issued every Thursday. He is an able journalist and the paper has an immense circulation throughout the blue grass regions.

The Creston *Commonwealth* is a splendid paper, ably edited by Mr. E. J. Sidey, and was established in the palace city a number of years ago. The daily and weekly both have a large circulation in Creston and Union county.

The *Sunday Times* was established in the blue grass palace city in the beginning of the year 1890 by Henry W. Lewis, and has had a remarkable career. "Everybody" takes the *Sunday Times*, which is issued every Sunday morning, and its columns devoted to the latest society, dramatic and religious news of the day. Mr. Lewis has recently associated himself with Mr. A. N. Cole of Lenox, a prominent newspaper man of merit who has removed to the palace city, and we understand that the paper will be enlarged to twice the present size, and no doubt will rank among the best in the state, as its circulation now extends over large territories of the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa.

Our business men and citizens generally will bear witness to the loyalty of the Creston press, and to the splendid results which have followed the efforts of the Creston newspapers to extend the fame of the city abroad and of the many advantages possessed by the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa.

The residence portion of the city contains some very handsome homes and residence lots and is beautifully situated; a great number of fine houses and tasty cottages were built here during the past year and a large number are in contemplation for the coming season, with several now in construction. Lots in desirable places are being rapidly taken, and no doubt the

coming year will mark a golden era in the history of the blue grass palace city.

#### PINE RIDGE DAIRY.

One mile due west of the postoffice, on Adams street, is the elegant farm of J. B. Dyar, who operates one of the finest dairies in southern Iowa, supplying the inhabitants of Creston and vicinity with milk and cream of the purest quality and in any quantity desired

Mr. Dyar established himself in this business near the palace city about five years ago, and the whole secret of his success lies in the fact that he always keeps the very best stock of cows that money can buy and the superior quality of food used, which is very essential to the making of good milk. Mr. Dyar is one of the substantial men of Union county and is closely identified with the interests of the palace city.

In the extreme western portion of the city is an artificial lake or reservoir, which was constructed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad company for the purpose of furnishing a supply of water to their mammoth shops in East Creston. The system is a complete one, while the shops are the largest in southern Iowa, equipped with all modern improvements known to the art of railway engineering. So ends a description of the palace city situated on the "crest," which was laid out very shortly after the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway reached this point, building west in 1859, and a very intimate lady friend of the author carried the chain and assisted in the driving of the stakes that first marked the destiny of one of the best towns in southern Iowa, her husband being at that time one of the finest civil engineers in the west.

## AFTON.

Afton, which lies twelve miles due east of Creston on the main line of the "Q." road, is a beautiful village and commands a fine view of the adjacent scenery, and the undulations of its surface afford ample drainage for its wide and regularly laid-out streets.

The town was platted in 1854 by E. A. Temple of Chariton, who owned the town site, and was christened by his wife, who gave it the name which is found in Tennyson's "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." The county seat was located here by the special commissioners in February, 1855. The first house was built of logs, 20x20 feet, in April, 1855, by David Fife who, when the roof was half on, moved his family and a small stock of groceries into the single room and began retailing goods. The next house was built by Elbert H. Smith on the north half of section 21, adjoining the town plat. Next William Collings built a one-room plank cabin, and over the door was a shingle with the word "Entertainment" painted on it in prominent letters.

On September 15, 1855, occurred the first public sale of lots in Afton, the attendance being quite large, numbering over fifty and including a number of parties from Knoxville, Osceola and Chariton. The sale was a success, only one lot on the public square selling for less than \$100. At noon the sale was adjourned and the crowd ate dinner at the Collings House, the bill of fare being mutton, corn bread and coffee—a meal relished by all.

The fall of 1855 found Afton in a hopeful and thriving condition, quite a number of stores and buildings having been built, the county seat located and everything indicating a bright future

In the winter of 1855-56 John C. Snow built a two-story log hotel, which he sold in a few months to William Locke, who hung out the sign "Afton House." Mr. Locke now resides in Creston and is known as the pioneer of Union county, hale and hearty at the advanced age of seventy-three.

Afton is well supplied with schools and churches and fraternal societies, and is noted for the great charitableness and hospitality of its people, who are also an educated and splendid class of citizens of Union county.

Arispe is another pretty town, located in Sand Creek township, three and one-half miles from the Ringold county line in Union county.

Cromwell is situated near the west line of Union county, about five miles west of Creston, on the "Q." road. When this town was laid out in 1868 it was generally supposed that it would be the west Iowa division station of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad and many invested there accordingly, only to be disappointed by its final location at Creston.

Kent is situated on the Hopkins branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, ten miles southwest of Creston. It is the shipping station for a thickly settled country and does a considerable mercantile business. The town has quite a number of business houses and good schools and churches.

Lorimer is a station on the Diagonal railroad, and is located on section 15, New Hope township. The town plat was recorded May 16, 1887.

Shannon City is located in Grant township, Union county, and adjoins the Ringold county line on the Diagonal railroad. It was laid out June 5, 1888.

Spaulding is located in Spaulding township, seven miles from Creston, on the north branch of the Chicago, Burlington

& Quincy railroad. A splendid stock, hay and grain country surrounds it and large shipments are made from that point.

Talmage is located about four miles east of Afton and nearly one mile north of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. It is a station also on the Diagonal railroad, which passes through Union county from Des Moines to Kansas City. Talmage is surrounded by a fine stock-raising country.

Thayer is situated in Jones township, two miles from the east line of the county. It is a station on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and does quite an extensive business in shipping stock and grain.

#### UNION COUNTY'S DISPLAY IN THE PALACE OF 1890.

Union county, the home of the blue grass palace, being endowed with a free gift of enterprise, and Creston, the county seat, being centrally located in the blue grass regions and the metropolis of southwest Iowa, it was decided by the Blue Grass League (and afterward arranged with the District Fair Association) that the palace should be built in her section of country on the fair grounds one mile north of the city, where it is now permanently located on one of the prettiest sites in the state of Iowa.

Union county occupies large space on the gallery floor of the novel building, the handsome booth which she occupies being divided into four lovely apartments exquisitely decorated with all the products of her soil. A pure white pyramid forms the central piece in the first apartment heavily fringed with a border of blue grass and wheat, on which are exhibited elegant samples of fruit, vegetables, grasses and grains grown in Union county, while the side walls are completely hidden from view by arrangements of all kinds of grains in the stock and ear, the



whole having the appearance of a richly laden field ready for the harvest or of orchards piled full of rosy-cheeked apples, while an elegant line of small fruits is shown in glass jars, put up by Union's excellent housewives. The grain exhibit attracts large crowds every day, the corn being unsurpassed in the palace, while wheat, oats, barley, rye, millet, flax and sorghum, all show luxuriant growth, being exceptionally fine. The vegetable display is grand; cabbage heads that even the Germans regard with eyes of envy, for the days of sauerkraut are fast approaching; potatoes that weigh two pounds, grown in six weeks' time in Union's fertile soil; carrots, beets, radishes, celery, egg plants, tomatoes, pumpkins, cauliflowers, squash, melons, peppers, in fact, everything grown of the vegetable kind in this latitude are seen here forming a picture, in the background of which is seen one of the most fertile counties in the great west, abounding in lovely prairies and pretty groves which have been planted and successfully raised, and which serve for beautifying the landscape as well as protecting buildings from the wind and sun and affording excellent shelter for stock. We can see in this picture beautiful streams peacefully flowing through all this country, affording an excellent supply of water for hundreds of cattle which graze on a thousand blue grass hills and in lovely wooded valleys.

One portion of this booth is fenced with a pretty rustic fence, representing a veritable blue grass pasture, in which stands a life-size Jersey cow made entirely of blue grass heads. Near the cow is seen a milkmaid's stool, and underneath her is a large tin pail turned over on the grass, and our eyes rest on the creamy milk which has been spilled on the ground. This interesting feature draws immense crowds to Union's elegant apartments every day. Near the cow and pasture are repre-

sented Union's dairy interests in firkins of rich yellow butter and an elegant line of cheese from her manufactories. The dairy interests of Union county are beyond competition and are being looked after by an intelligent and wealthy class of people. Union county is as good a butter county as there is in the state and is known as such throughout the entire country.

A large picture made of grains of corn and all varieties of seeds grown in this section of country forms a pretty background for the cow and blue grass pasture, and Union's dairy interests is an old-fashioned dash churn, as perfect in form as the old churn itself. All that is necessary to make the whole scene complete is one of Union's pretty maids to occupy the milkmaid's stool and one of her excellent housewives to manipulate the churn dashes.

The only parlor, bed-chamber and kitchen represented in the palace were made by Union county; they are very esthetic in effect and were manipulated by the ladies of Creston and Union county, and are a revelation. Weeks were consumed in the work, as many as seventy-five ladies working on them at one time, and their untiring efforts have been crowned with great success; these ladies are certainly deserving of the many compliments passed on them by the multitude who have visited the great industrial exposition. The parlor is a large room and the handsome carpet which covers the floor is made of oats straw, and fancy-colored carpet chain; it was woven on an old-fashioned carpet loom, is beautiful in effect and coloring and one of the greatest curiosities ever seen.

The furnishings of this room are simply elegant, each article being made of some product of the soil from Union county.

The beautiful drapes over the windows in this room are made of popped corn strung on dainty threads and crossed in

diamond shapes and from a distance have the appearance of having been made of a soft, fleecy material, and are gracefully drawn aside by cords, made of the same. The east side of this room represents ye olden times of 1830, while the west side bears the date of 1890. In the former the walls are of white-washed logs, like those used in log-cabin days, giving the room a neat and cheerful appearance. A quaint old fireplace occupies a prominent position in this room and is a most novel and interesting piece of decorative work. Over the fireplace is an old-fashioned wood mantel, on which are three brass candlesticks and a pair of ancient snuffers, a clock and two winter bouquets of autumn leaves, grasses and flowers gathered from the trees and fields in Union County. The red brick in this fireplace is represented by grains of red shelled corn and the mortar by white grains, the whole being a complete representation of those seen in our grand-fathers' days—even to the back-log and crane.

Grandma sits knitting close by the fireplace,  
With snowy white hair, and a smile on her face;  
Though years have passed by, yet it does not seem long  
Since she rocked baby's papa to sleep with that song.

Cosily sleeping in a cradle of ancient pattern, completely covered with blue grass and red and white clover blossoms, is a lovely, innocent blue grass baby, perfectly unconscious of the many admiring eyes resting upon her as she sweetly dreams upon a downy pillow of blue grass heads.

Grandma has one foot on the rocker and the cradle she swings,  
And though baby slumbers, she hears what she sings.

A spinning-wheel made of oats and wheat stands in the center of the floor, singing a happy song of the many pleasant hours spent in this cozy cabin home. The careful housewife

sits by clothed in a coarse suit of flax, drawing out the long silken threads from the rack above her, which wind themselves hurriedly around the fast flying spools, the flax seen here having been grown in Union county. This scene is a pretty picture and greatly admired by all; even the artist's eye rests on it with keen appreciation. Hanging on the side wall of this picturesque home is a large map of Iowa made entirely of seeds, which is of itself a complete revelation. The counties are represented by millet seed, while the separating lines are formed of lettuce seeds, and the creeks and rivers are traced by lines of cucumber seeds, the whole being handsomely framed in a variety of small blocks of wood, all native of Union county. This piece of artistic work has been one of the leading attractions in Union county's apartments. Chairs and tables made from the products of Union's fields and prairies are seen in this comfortable home and attract wide attention. Now, reader, we have looked upon the home of 1830, let us gaze on the one of 1890.

The first object which greets the eye of the visitor in this elegant apartment is Ceres, the goddess of grain, life size and beautifully clothed in a combination suit of oats and wheat. The dress is cut *decollete en train*, and if the ladies of our eastern and southern cities could look upon the magnificent beauty and adornment of this lovely maiden a pang of jealousy would immediately cross their hearts. An elegant necklace clasps her shapely neck, made of solid grains of sweet corn, while the bracelets she wears are of the same material.

She stands on a pedestal of grasses and grains, in all her royal beauty and splendor, with a crown of blue grass intermingled with white clover blossoms on her head. In her right hand she carries a bouquet of wheat, oats and corn tassel. This elegant queen has come up to the blue grass palace to bow

before the king of the blue grass region in honor of Union county.

Near the goddess of grain is seen a beautiful maiden—"sweet sixteen"—and her elegant costume has the appearance of being made of green cut velvet. She carries a beautiful bouquet of cardinal flowers, gathered from the fields, in her left hand and is a decided brunette in complexion.

When we realize that her dress is a combination of green burs and timothy heads we are indeed surprised. This lovely maiden is looked upon with eyes of favor by all young men matrimonially inclined in the blue grass regions.

In the center of this lovely apartment is a large parlor table made of all the varieties of grains grown in the county. A complete family made entirely of corn husks and silks occupy a space on this esthetic table—Mr. and Mrs. C. Husk, daughter and son. Mr. Husk carries a satchel in his left hand, which bears his initials, while each member of the family carries an umbrella made of husks, the hair of each being represented by corn silk; of course, all are red-headed. A perfect representation of the eyes has been made of shiny grains of pop-corn. This family is as pretty a piece of genius and skill as is displayed in the palace.

The wheel of commerce is displayed here, showing all grains and grasses grown in the blue grass regions as it slowly turns round and round, while a huge bell made of oats, with a clapper of corn, hangs suspended above it. The Indian chief, Black Hawk, has seemingly arisen from his abode in the forest, and has come up to the palace in the garb of civilization. He is considerably out of his line of work, but the Great Spirit of the universe having informed him of the great wonders of the blue grass regions and palace, he comes forth in all his



Indian majesty with a wheelbarrow laden with all the large, well-matured vegetables which grow in the latitude, and presents them to the king with eloquence and pride. A piano made entirely of the products of Union's loamy soil attracts large numbers of musicians to its side every day, being as perfect in form as if manufactured by J. Reed & Sons of Chicago.

A strawberry blonde gracefully occupies the piano stool, while a dude of the same complexion leans lovingly over her with a sheet of music in his left hand. He carries a sort of persuasive air about him and as we look at them we are led to believe that she may have refused to sing for him again his favorite song, "When the Lobsters Nest Again."

On a lovely blue grass lawn near by is a happy party playing croquet, merrily rolling the balls hither and thither, all expectant of winning the most interesting game of the season.

Reader, will you stop for one moment and consider the handiwork and planning which this exhibit has certainly required in the making up and blending so beautifully of such an elegant, elaborate and esthetic decoration? The ladies of Creston and Union county have won fame abroad, even in foreign countries, as being the most noted manipulators of decorative triumph in the whole world.

We now pass from this elegant apartment to George Washington's bedroom, immediately adjoining the parlor on the west, where we shall note the furnishings of ye olden times.

The first object which greets our eye in this room is a quaint, old-fashioned, high post bedstead, which would require the aid of a step-ladder to climb into. A huge featherbed and pair of pillows, also products of Union county, make this bed downy and soft, as only genuine goose feathers will. When our eyes rest on the covering, made of old "yaller" and red

calico, pieced in log-chain pattern and set together with large blocks of muslin, our great grandmother's picture comes up before us, and when we gaze on the pure white petticoat drawn around the bottom, all ruffled and tuffed, we melt into tears.

This is a complete representation of the bed on which the father and mother of our country slept and dreamed the many happy hours away, way back in old Virginia, in the long, long ago. A washstand of ancient pattern stands in one corner of the room, on which is a washbowl and pitcher of colonial pottery and a winter bouquet in a blue china vase; an old looking-glass with a picture of London bridge across the top hangs directly over the stand, making the toilet as complete as those seen in the early days of our country. Two chairs made of cat-tails and blue grass heads occupy prominent positions in this room, and a braided rug of old-time pattern forms the only covering for the floor. The curtains over the windows are made of white beans and sweet corn woven into all conceivable shapes and give the room a pretty finish. Reader, you may draw your own comparisons between this room and the one occupied to-day by the President of our United States in the White House at Washington, D. C. We now pass from this novel room into an old-time kitchen, and the first object that meets our eye is another fireplace, which has been constructed of wood, then received a coat of tar, after which the red grains of corn have been put on in the form of brick, while the mortar is represented by white grains. An old-fashioned iron crane sets in the fireplace, on which is hanging a kettle filled with pork and cabbage (more of Union's products) boiling for the noonday meal, while

Auld Baldwin by the ingle sits,

and the housewife is at her favorite vocation, washing the soiled

linen of the family, and the dexterity with which her hands fly up and down the washboard is astonishing, using at the same time large quantities of elbow soap. Her general appearance and attitude are the subject of much comment by all visitors to the palace. A wooden table and a few split-bottomed chairs of the old kind and a box cupboard complete the furnishings of this kitchen, with the exception of a few memory gems in the shape of old keepsakes which adorn the mantel above the fireplace and three brass candlesticks.

A low wooden cradle occupies a prominent place near the hearthstone, of which I have almost forgotten to speak, and is worthy of notice, containing a pair of cherubs, which are very numerous in the blue grass regions. A small colored girl sits by and swings the cradle while the mother washes; the curtains over the windows in this room are made of straws strung on threads with a red field berry between each one, forming a very pretty and neat drapery.

It has been almost impossible for visitors to make their way through the great crowds which have lingered in front of these apartments every day since the opening of the great exposition, which are the finest pieces of artistic decoration made from the products of the soil ever placed before the admiring eyes of people in any country under the sun; and as we look upon the wonderful possibilities of art and nature combined in this display, we exclaim in the language of Col. Mulberry Sellers, "there's millions in it."

Seventeen other counties, represented in the Blue Grass League, occupy lovely separate apartments in the blue grass palace, and have royally responded to the call of the great king; they came nobly forward in all the rich products of their soil, and placed them at the feet of the chosen king of a favored

county, who received them in warm welcome and bestowed upon them all the honors to which they were entitled.

#### ADAMS COUNTY.

The next county which claims our attention on this romantic sight-seeing journey throughout the blue grass regions and palace is Adams, and we pass underneath her rustic sign to gaze on her handsome quarters. Adams county has come up to the palace in honor of the king of the blue grass regions, decorated in all the rich products of her soil.

The queen of this county occupies a beautiful, decorated throne in the center of this booth and is surrounded by every beautiful thing which her wonderful soil affords. First are the apples, luscious and tempting to the appetites of all visitors; then peaches and pears that would make the eyes of a Californian turn green with envy, while the excellent varieties of grapes, plums and quinces which lie at the feet of Queen Adams are tempting and beautiful to look upon. The display of small fruits in glass jars, put up by the queen's servants, is simply immense; also the elegant varieties of grain—corn from the fertile valleys of the peaceful Nodaway river—which are viewed with envy by farmers from less favored regions; the oats and wheat are also of excellent quality, both in the stock and in sacks, left open for inspection. The blue grass timothy and clover denote luxuriant growth. The dairy interests of Adams county are largely represented in this booth, and occupy a space on the queen's left, with a history worthy the attention of all visitors. In these Adams cannot be excelled in Iowa.

The display of native woods in this booth tells a story of beautiful forests, which cast their reflections on the quiet waters of her peaceful creeks and rivers, and also of cheap fuel for her inhabitants.

A limestone tree over ten feet high is one of the most novel and interesting objects in the entire palace, the texture, polish and finish of which is beautiful, and was made by Shaffer Bros. of Corning, county seat of Adams county, who make a specialty of rustic monuments. The trunk of this seemingly model tree of the forest has been shorn of its leaves and branches and the carvings are as natural as the bark itself; the smooth surfaces where the large limbs have been removed are left for inscriptions. This handsome piece of work has attracted thousands to the Adams county booth since the opening of the great industrial exposition, and was placed in the Ottumwa coal palace by the blue grass region exhibitors, where it was admired by tens of thousands; it rests to-day in one of Des Moines' silent cities of the dead, having been seen and admired by a citizen of that city while at the coal palace, who purchased it to mark the resting-place of some loved one.

The limestone quarries from which this stone was taken in Adams county are very valuable and immediately adjoin the city of Corning, almost within her corporate limits; they are inexhaustible, and a ledge of pure sandstone has just been discovered. The brick on exhibition are also manufactured at Corning and of excellent quality; also abundance of sand and lime, which make building cheaper in this county than anywhere else in the state.

Corning, the county seat of Adams county, is situated in the heart of the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa and on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; it is one of the most prosperous and enterprising towns in this section of country, containing 2,000 inhabitants, and has a fine system of waterworks, furnishing an adequate and constant supply of pure spring water; erected at a cost of \$20,000.



It has also a splendid Westinghouse electric light plant, furnishing beautiful incandescent lights to its citizens at low rates, lighting its streets and squares. It has a city hall and a splendidly equipped fire department and two beautiful public parks. Corning has one of the handsomest court-houses in the west, while the public school system cannot be excelled in the state, and an academy of higher grade furnishes unsurpassed educational facilities. It has flourishing churches representing nearly all the denominations, and nearly all the fraternities have successful lodges.

Corning is indeed one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities in the west, and is the center of wealth, culture and refinement, Christian influence and educational advantages of the best part of the finest state of the Union. It is also a city of beautiful homes and its wooded hills overlooking the peaceful Nodaway valley are covered with pretty residences and tasteful cottages.

Corning is a first-class trading point and ships large quantities of stock compared with its population. It is the best business town on the line of the "Q." railroad in her section of the country, and among the best in southwestern Iowa. It has many advantages for manufacturers, and no town in western Iowa can offer such inducements for their establishment. It is a live, energetic, wide-awake, enthusiastic city; has no croakers nor grumblers nor dry goods box loafers. All disappeared since the blue grass boom and are being replaced by mechanics.

Corning has the largest tributary territory for country trade of any county seat on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy in Iowa.

The crops have never failed in Adams county, while its grazing facilities are unsurpassed. It has large coal beds, fur-

nishing cheap fuel; it has the best building stone, limestone and sandstone in the state, and building sand in abundance, and manufactures the best lime, brick and tile.

The valleys of the Nodaway river are unsurpassed in the world for fertility and the pastures and meadows are unrivaled; her soil never wears out and is the deepest in the world. In 1889 the corn crop was 12,813,272 bushels; wheat crop, 331,422 bushels; oats crop, 255,790 bushels; hay crop, over 100,000 tons. Her potatoes were selected to represent the state at the Paris International Exposition, which shows that Iowa fruit stands first in the Union. For four consecutive years Adams county took first prize at the state fair on her apple exhibit.

Adams county has just reason to be proud of the excellent display she has made in the blue grass palace of 1890, and the king, as he looks upon her beauty and magnificent advantages, kindly invites her to the fruit and grain festival of 1891.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Reader, we will pass now into Montgomery's landed estate, which touches Adams county on the east, Pottawattamie and Cass on the north, Page on the south and Mills on the west.

Montgomery is a large name and she governs a great country; she has come up to the palace in chariots of gold, loaded down with all the products of an elegant soil. Large space is required in which to make her exhibit, and, as the king recognizes this fact, she is given commodious quarters near the main entrance, where she is viewed by thousands.

This booth is adorned with great genius, the ceiling and side walls being completely hidden from view by thatched grasses and grains and having the appearance of inverted

fields of golden grain, or of verdant pastures and meadows filled with blossoms of the red and white clover. A pyramid of cream shelving contains the fruit exhibit, which is a most excellent one; its varieties of apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes and quinces, with a fine display of small fruits in glass jars put up by Montgomery's own domestic hands, are greatly admired by all visitors.

Next are the grasses and grains grown in the county and equal to any we have yet seen in the palace. The classic Nishnabatona river passes entirely through this county, whose valley is equally as fertile as that of the Nile in Egypt, and such corn as is grown in this valley every year has no equal on the continent, large quantities of which are placed in this booth for inspection. The stalks are the tallest and the largest and best-filled ears seen in the palace come from the Nishnabatona valley in southwestern Iowa.

The displays of oats and wheat, barley, rye, flax and millet are also of excellent quality. Blue grass, timothy and clover, both in the stalk and in sacks, denote luxuriant growth in Montgomery's favored section of country. Her dairy interests occupy valuable space and we look upon jars of sweet butter and rich, creamy cheese—a charming picture for those who love to dwell on the everyday articles of life.

Montgomery certainly has no rival in the palace in the products of the dairy, while Iowa leads all the states in the Union in creameries and cheese manufactories.

The display of native wood from timber in this county, along the banks of the lovely Nishnabatona river and Walnut creek, is astonishing, and as we linger around this elegant display our mind wanders back to the old home and wood fire-place, where the happiest days of our lives were spent and

where the children of the pioneers of Iowa studied their spelling lessons in the long winter evenings by the light of a crackling fire. We can almost hear the wood crackle now as it burns and see the sparks fly upward. Abundance of timber in this county affords cheap fuel for Montgomery's numerous inhabitants.

Large quantities of brick, stone, tile and sand are also on exhibition, which speak of cheap building material in that section of country.

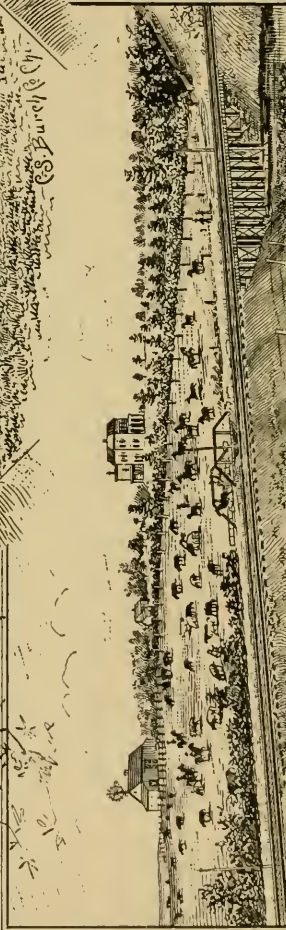
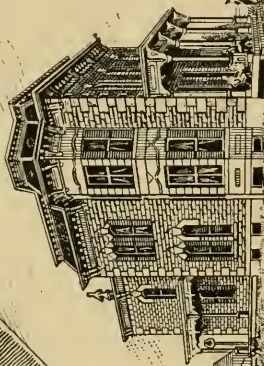
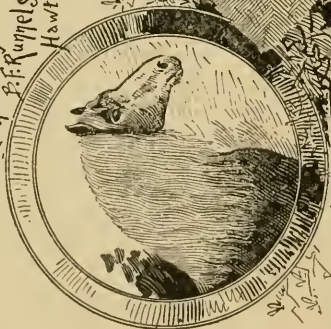
Let us turn our attention now to the artistic display. First we notice a miniature house, the pattern of which has been taken from one of Montgomery's favored citizens, Gothic in style and architecture, and is surrounded by a beautiful blue grass lawn with graveled walks leading down to the front gate, bordered on either side with lovely flowers all in bloom, which send their sweet fragrance over Montgomery's beautiful apartment. Small fountains are seen prettily playing on this lawn, sprinkling the grass with tiny sprays, which sparkle and dance in the merry sunshine. This beautiful house and grounds are typical of those seen in Montgomery's cities and villages, and draw large crowds to her booth in the palace every day. As we look on the four "pigs in clover" we laugh outright, for we see a miniature pigpen made of logs and set over a large square of rich blue grass sod, containing four thrifty-looking pigs, natural as life and made of large Irish potatoes. This one feature alone tells a wonderful story of Montgomery's hog profits.

We next notice a box filled with the purest white sand we have ever seen, which was taken from Montgomery's sand pits, while the words "Red Oak" and "Valisca" run down the center, written in letters of blue grass.



# Fairview Place

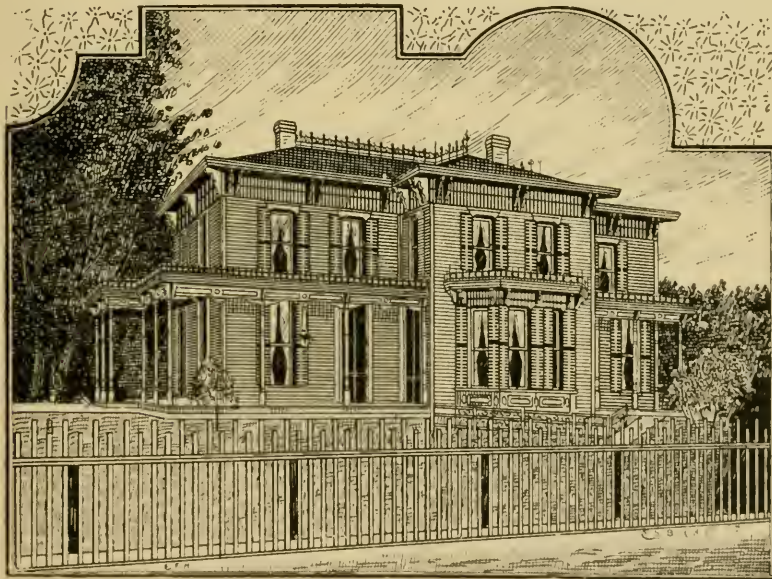
Home of  
P. F. Ruppels,  
Hawthorne.



FAIRVIEW PLACE.



Red Oak is the county seat of Montgomery county, beautifully situated on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, and also on the eastern bank of the peaceful Nodaway river and contains 4,000 inhabitants; it is a thriving, prosperous city and its business men are endowed with a due allowance of grit and energy, carrying at all times a sort of "get-up-and-get-there" air about them, always on the alert for something advantageous to their city and county therefore, their city has been of rapid and solid growth.



A FARM RESIDENCE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Elegant brick blocks adorn the streets, while handsome residences are scattered throughout the residence portion of the city. Fine churches, with tall spires reaching above as if try-

ing to grasp the tiny clouds which float o'er them, are structures of which Red Oak is justly proud. Elegant school buildings are seen in every ward and Red Oak is also proud of her educational interests.

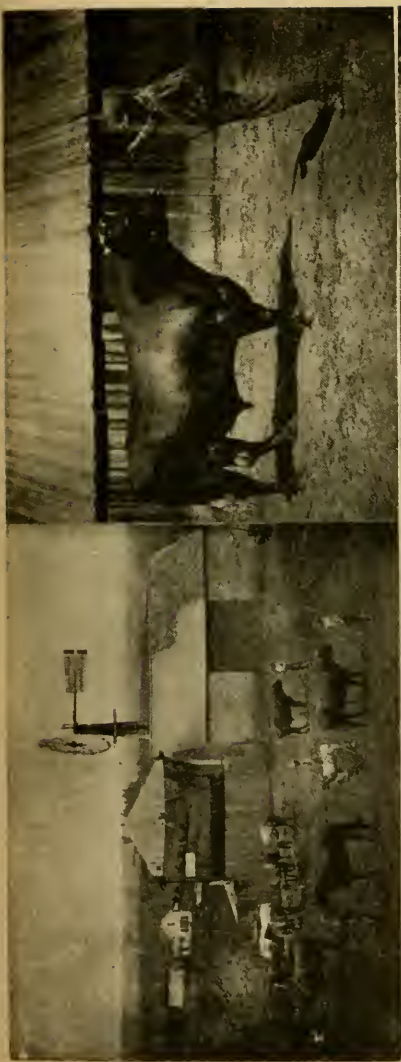
The Red Oak Medical and Surgical Sanitarium has a fine location in this city, having been opened on June 26 last; it is a beautiful and commodious building and fast coming into favor with many citizens in the great west.

A beautiful court-house is in course of construction, which when finished will be the most elegant county building in the great northwest.

Red Oak is a great business center for a large tributary territory and all classes of business are represented here necessary in supplying the masses of the same. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad passes through the city entire from east to west, with branches running north and south, each through a rich stock country.

Montgomery is certainly rich in her possessions, being noted for having the most beautiful and fertile farming region in the state, while her farmers are composed of an honest, industrious and zealous class, who till the soil and earn their living by the honest sweat of the brow; and as they turn up the soil their mind's eye sees fields of waving golden grain which they are sure to reap and cornfields laden with full round ears ready for the fall gathering. The grain, stock and dairy shipments foot up large sums in this county every year, hundreds of cars of the same being shipped forth to feed the people of the old world as well as those of the new. Valisca, Stanton, Coburgh and Elliott are all flourishing towns in Montgomery county.

After the golden grains of 1891 have been garnered and all the products of a rich soil have been gathered together, the



SHORTHORN FARM OF WAYNE STENNETT.

harvest past and the summer ended, we can see Montgomery in the distance loading up the golden chariot with the good things of her land and wending her way to the palace city of Creston, where she will place them in the king's elegant palace, built and decorated from the products of Iowa's rich soil.

Come on, Montgomery, and pass a few days of recreation and pleasure where the farmers of the blue grass regions meet together and talk over the prices of stock and grain, the crops and whom they will run for their next president; where merchants meet and compare prices on goods, each one, by the way, giving a thrilling account of how the McKinley bill has affected him and the ups and downs of a business life. The grain merchant mingles with the stockshipper and the artist clasps hands with the architect; the poet walks with the people and old ladies exchange garden seeds, old gentlemen bet on the races and young ladies—bless their hearts!—draw comparisons between the style of bonnet and dress worn by their sisters last year to the palace and those worn this—all mingling in one great delighted throng of eager, anxious, interested guests, admiring the beautiful decorations in the blue grass palace of 1891.

#### “QUEEN MILLS.”

If the reader will consent to accompany us still farther on this interesting journey through the blue grass regions and palace, we will with pleasure introduce you now to the fairest queen among them all, who reigns supreme over a section of country that lies between Fremont and Pottawattamie and whose fertile valleys on the west lie along the great Missouri river, while Montgomery joins hands with her on the east.

Queen Mills has come up to the blue grass palace gloriously arrayed in all the products of a fertile soil and the king



assigns her one of the most favorable locations within his elegant domicile; she is at home to the people of her own county and to all strangers from other lands who may be attracted to her magnificent apartments.

The first object of beauty which meets our gaze as we enter this booth is the ceiling decorations of the different varieties of grasses grown in Mills county, blue grass predominating largely in the make-up. And the side walls are covered with all the grains of the stock grown in the county—corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, millet and flax, mingled with tall hazel bushes, hanging full of hazel nuts.

Long tables are ranged down the center of this elegant booth spread with cream muslin, on which is arranged a fine display of fruits from prolific orchards in her section of country. If there is one thing more than another which Queen Mills dotes on, it is her fruit farms, which are the finest and most productive in the west, hundreds of acres being devoted to the cultivation of apples, peaches, pears, grapes, plums and all the varieties of small fruits, which yield large returns every year. A fruit farm in Mills county, Iowa, is the same to the owner as a rich gold mine is to a Californian. The John Y. Stone fruit farm, one mile north of Glenwood, has several hundred acres alone in the cultivation of apples and small fruits. L. A. Williams, one mile east of Glenwood, has about 200 acres in orchards and seventy-five varieties of apples are shown on the tables in this booth from the same. James A. Record also makes a fine display of fruits from his elegant fruit farm near Glenwood and fine exhibits are made by numerous other beautiful and bearing orchards in Mills county. The tables fairly groan in this booth with their burdens of all the choice fruits in season and a most elegant line of canned goods put up by the queen's household.



What a magnificent festival! Even the king is delighted as he looks upon the excellent display of fruits which Queen Mills has made in the palace of 1890. He invites the lords of the British Isles and all those living in other lands and people in our "ain countree" to look upon this magnificent festival.

The next prominent feature is the grain exhibit, and we are informed by the pleasant commissioner that the large, full matured ears of corn on exhibition were grown in the fertile



HON. JOHN T. STONE'S FRUIT FARM.

valleys of the picturesque Nishnabatonka river, which flows through this county. The wheat, oats, barley, rye, millet and flax denote a wonderful growth, while the blue grass, timothy and clover tell an interesting story of her luxuriant meadows and pasture lands.

Next are the queen's dairy interests, represented by jars of pure, sweet, golden butter, and excellent cheese is shown from numerous manufactories in Mills county; judging from the quality of each, Queen Mills cannot be excelled in the west in her dairy interests and large shipments of the same are being made from her section of country at all seasons of the year.

The display of native woods from timber along the banks of her creeks and rivers is of excellent variety and quality; they afford cheap fuel for her inhabitants. A valuable quality of building stone from her quarries, brick and tile from her manufactories, with abundance of sand, denote that Mills is well supplied with cheap building material. In the esthetic display we notice a Chinese pagoda, made entirely from the products of Mills county soil. From each corner hang many loopings and streamers of fancy colored ribbons. Underneath this unique piece of work is a stand made of the varieties of grasses grown in Mills county, intermingled with all the beautiful leaves and flowers of autumn. An open register lies on the table and all visitors are kindly asked to register their names upon its pages; as we seat ourselves in a lovely rustic chair, made of the products of the soil, and write our names, we almost wish that we might call Mills our "ain countree."

Near this pagoda is seen an extensive line of canned goods from the Glenwood canning factory, which was organized in 1883, with Wm. A. Anderson president, Geo. Michellwait vice-president and D. L. Heinshimer secretary and treasurer.

It was supposed the reputation of Glenwood's canned goods was due to the superior processing by its first superintendent, as after the first year the goods brought better prices than any other canned in the west. But as they are now working with the third superintendent, who was entirely unacquainted with the others' methods and processing, we find always the same fine flavor and quality of the goods, which command the highest prices in the markets. Of course, always requiring a very careful selection of good goods they have come to the conclusion that the superiority of the Glenwood canned goods is

due mainly to the soil, as the first superintendent was an excellent one, and has not been able to produce goods since becoming associated with other factories that would command the prices which this factory has received and maintained since the first year's production.

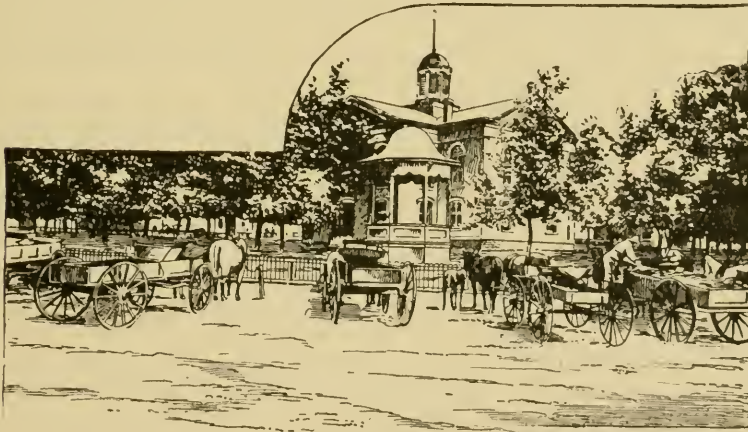
The method of procuring tomatoes, which is the main exhibit in the palace, and also the main work of the factory, is by contracting with farmers for certain numbers of acres, generally ranging from one to twelve apiece; total, 250 to 400 acres every year; average product from 100 to 700 bushels per acre. The season of 1890 was a poor one all over the west, but the yield in Mills county was over double per acre that of the Plattsmouth factory (eight miles from Glenwood) and other factories in the west, and as far as we have learned was greater than any other factory in Iowa or Nebraska, which shows that the Glenwood canning factory can produce quantity as well as quality; its pack for 1889 was about 32,000 dozen cans of tomatoes and the same number of cans of apples. The goods from this factory make a beautiful and valuable exhibit in the queen's lovely apartments and are admired by thousands.

Among the novel exhibits in this booth are two wild animals, representative of Mills county as she was in early days; one is a large timber wolf, which was caught in the Missouri river bottom, and the other a ferocious looking wild cat from the bluffs along the same. These rare curiosities are viewed with astonishment by those people living in our eastern states.

Glenwood, the county seat of Mills county, is situated on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and is one of the most beautiful and picturesque towns in southwestern Iowa, as it seemingly nestles cosily among the hills and

valleys, beneath the spreading branches of native forest trees. The business blocks in this city are mostly of solid brick and will compare favorably with those in other towns of its size, while the merchants are an enterprising, energetic and liberal class of citizens. All classes of business are carried on here which is necessary to supply the wants of the large territory of surrounding country.

The state institution for feeble minded children has a fine location at Glenwood, and the buildings of the same are all of



COURT-HOUSE, GLENWOOD.

solid red brick with handsome limestone trimmings, the interior finish being of hard southern pine; it is equipped with all modern improvements. An excellent view of the town of Glenwood and the beautiful surrounding country is had from the veranda on the fourth floor of this building and also of the fine farm property of the institution, which consists of 400 acres of excellent farming land, all in a high state of cultivation;

especial care is given to the cultivation of fruit, there being over 2,000 growing apple trees (one-half bearing fruit), 3,000 bearing grapevines, 3,000 bearing raspberry bushes, 8,000 bearing blackberry bushes, a large number of cherry trees and several thousand currant and gooseberry bushes.

The following figures partially indicate the amount of labor done on the farm and in the garden during the past year: One hundred and fifty-five bushels of beans, 1,111 heads of cabbages, 1,252 dozen of cucumbers, 250 bushels of onions, 145 bushels of peas, 391 bushels of tomatoes, 140 bushels of rutabagas, 1,953 dozen of sweet corn, 255 bushels of beets, 21,000 radishes and 3,734 pounds of broom corn in the dairy 15,234 gallons of milk have been consumed.

The brick yard has been a remunerative and interesting addition to its industries. Ten kilns burned last year in all about 228,000. This year a kiln of 110,000 is at present ready for fire. This work is principally done by boys, there being only two men employed as managers. The shoe shops also continue an industrious and remunerative department; 578 pairs of boots and shoes were made last year and 1,572 repairs.

What a grand institution the state of Iowa has placed at the disposal of the poor unfortunates within her borders! The buildings throughout have an appearance of order and neatness, and the superintendent and matron, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Powell, who have been at the head of this institution for years, are perfectly adapted to the positions they so nobly and honorably fill in the management and the caring of the inmates, many of whom are feeble in mind as well as in body.

Mills county is noted for the excellent quality of her soil, the abundant harvests she reaps every year of all the grains grown in this latitude, her luxuriant meadows and fine blue



grass pastures and last, but not least, as being the finest stock country under the sun, unusually large shipments of the same being made from this section every year. The lovely valleys of the beautiful Nishnabotona river and Keg creek, which flow through the county, furnish excellent pasturage for cattle and horses the year round in moderate seasons, while the streams furnish them abundance of pure water.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, passes through this county from east to west and the Wabash from north to south, with the Kansas City, St. Jo & Council Bluffs passing entirely through the extreme western portion, affording excellent shipping facilities for all her inhabitants. The drainage of the land in this section is fine, being high enough to escape wet seasons, while the peculiar quality of the soil is such that crops are little affected by drouth. Her people are an educated, industrious and aristocratic class, and widely known for their hospitality.

Mills for fine farms, comfortable homes, prolific orchards, excellent vegetables, native timber, lovely rivers, fertile valleys, thriving villages, elegant railroad facilities, and the largest stock, grain, fruit and dairy shipments in the great west.

Queen Mills has carried off high honors by the excellent exhibits she has made before the noted king of the favored blue grass regions, having been admired by thousands of visitors to the blue grass palace.

Malvern, Hastings, Hillsdale and Pacific Junction are all thriving towns in this county. As an illustration of her fruit farms, we give the following, taken from the *Malvern Leader*:

"W. R. Trollet, near Malvern, has an orchard of 3,000 apple trees, which bore him a crop of 7,000 bushels of apples (5,000 bushels of prime marketable fruit and 2,000 bushels of

an inferior grade), that were sold for immediate home consumption or made into cider and applebutter. The crop brought him the snug sum of \$4,500. His winesaps that bore returned him \$500 an acre and his janets \$250 an acre. The entire 3,000 trees occupy but forty acres of land, the returns therefore being over \$100 an acre."

Mills county is rapidly becoming a great orchard and many trees are being set every year. Mr. Seth Macy, of the *Iowa State Register*, who recently made a trip through southwestern Iowa, mainly on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, brings glowing reports of that section. "The half has never been told," he said, while talking over his trip. "I never saw a prettier country. Around Glenwood I found hundreds of acres in orchards and all of them doing well. The fruit-raisers of this section are going to make thousands out of their apples. They are near Council Bluffs and Omaha markets and find ready sale for all they can raise. The dealers come upon the ground and contract for the fruit at so much a bushel. I found that any quantity had been disposed of at \$1.00 a bushel for good apples.

"The fruit belt—that is, the strip of country best fitted for fruit raising—is not a wide one. Glenwood seems to be pretty near the center of it. It is on a high ridge and well timbered. The success of fruit trees here is due to the composition of the soil. The trees which I saw, and I saw thousands of them, big and little, were all in splendid condition, healthy and bearing liberally of the very best kind of fruit. I spent some time at the fruit farm of Attorney-General Stone and found him to be one of the largest and most successful growers in that section. He has hundreds of acres in fruit trees. The attorney-general is quite as much farmer as lawyer.

"The more I saw the more I kept saying to the people, why don't you advertise the advantages of your soil and climate? California cannot beat what you have here. The most stupid thing is that hundreds of homeseekers have passed through this beautiful region of southern Iowa and never found out what a good country it is. I told every man that I met that the people ought to boom the country, or rather make the world acquainted with the advantages of the region in which they live. I was so charmed with what I saw that I wanted to turn farmer at once. I saw a constant succession of thrifty orchards with rosy-cheeked apples on the trees, and, if possible, rosier apples heaped upon the ground.

"Thousands of pickers were at work gathering the fruit. Men, women and children were preparing the abundant crop for the market. The orchards were so many thrifty spots, surrounded by native timber in all the glory of autumn coloring. If I had to live anywhere but in Des Moines, I would live in the blue grass regions that I have just visited, raise fruit, grow rich and die happy. The fact is becoming more and more patent that the people who live in Iowa have everything to be thankful for. The country that lies between the two great rivers of the continent—the Missouri and the Mississippi—is the best the Creator ever made. It is the Eden of the new world and will become the granary of the nation. The fact is beginning to dawn on all that this is so."

When the blue grass carnival of 1891 is thrown open to the world in August next, no doubt the fairest queen among the entire eighteen counties comprising the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa will come forth to the palace, where she will be received with cheers resounding throughout the whole state.

## FREMONT COUNTY.

Just across the line from Mills county on the south is Fremont, which forms the entire southwest corner of the great state of Iowa. The western border of this county lies along the bank of the big, muddy Missouri, while Page looks on her with great favor from the east. Fremont has come up to the palace with all the pomp and splendor of a great nation to worship at the shrine of her devoted admirer, King Blue Grass, to become better acquainted with her neighboring counties in southwestern Iowa and to mingle with strangers from other lands that all may learn of her great resources. Her excellent exhibit has been arranged in commodious quarters, and so esthetic and unique are her elegant decorations that the eyes of all visitors are fairly charmed as they gaze on her magnificent array of decorative triumph.

Fremont has come up to the blue grass carnival with the full expectation of carrying off first honors, and as we gaze on the great taste, genius and skill manifested in her apartment we are led to believe she is worthy of them.

The ceiling of this booth is completely hidden from view by exquisite arrangements of corn in the stock, wheat and oats, while the side walls are covered with all the grains and grasses grown in Fremont county. Long tables are ranged in rows down the center of the booth spread with rich linen, on which are exhibited fine samples of all the luscious fruits from her orchards and prolific berry patches. These fruits are served on decorated China plates and such an array as is set before the king and his favorite subjects has never been witnessed in any other country on the continent.

Vegetables of every kind grown in our latitude are piled up in heaps underneath the tables, elegant in variety and quality,

which tell a wonderful story of Fremont's rich soil. Near by are sacks filled with all the varieties of grain grown in the county—corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, millet, flax, broom corn, timothy, clover and blue grass seed. Corn, oats and wheat are also shown in the stock, being the finest exhibit in the palace. Fremont's dairy interests are largely represented; and such butter! even the king himself acknowledged the compliment of Fremont having placed such elegant butter before him. And such cheese! "Western reserves" are nowhere when compared with the cheese manufactured in Fremont county.

Seventy-six varieties of wood, all natives of this beautiful section, were placed here by a student of the noted Tabor College, which is located in the northern portion of Fremont county, and the display of fine arts, which take up one whole side of this lovely apartment, is made by this same college, and attracts the attention of every visitor to the blue grass palace, crowds lingering around it every day.

There are people in the eastern and southern states, perhaps, who would hardly believe, could they see them, that these elegant paintings were executed by the students of Tabor College in the west. But the blue grass regions of Iowa can boast of as skilled artists as are found anywhere in the United States, either in crayon, oil, water or pastel. If you don't believe it, come out to the blue grass palace of 1891 and see the excellent showing made by Tabor College in the fine art gallery and by numerous other master artists of Iowa.

The silk culture is represented in this booth by an interesting display of creamy silk cocoons, a part of which has been unwound, showing forth an excellent quality of silk.

A complete line of artistic furniture is shown in the eastern portion of the booth, representing a parlor furnished entirely



with rustic furniture, every piece having been made of some product of the soil. Chairs, tables, sofas, swings, cradles, etc., all arranged with the same excellent taste as is displayed by the careful housewife in Fremont's happy homes.

On each side of the entrance to this booth are the tallest stalks of corn seen in the palace—from twelve to fifteen feet



COUNTY COURT-HOUSE.

high and grown in the fertile valleys of the beautiful Nishnabtona river.

Fremont has, without a doubt, the most elaborately decorated booth in the palace of 1890; therefore, when the king's judges are sent forth to decide on the most excellent exhibit they will wisely and justly place the blue ribbon on Fremont.

Sidney is the county seat of Fremont county, situated on the Sidney branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which traverses the county entire from northwest to southeast, while the Kansas City, St. Jo & Council Bluffs penetrates the extreme western portion, affording excellent shipping facilities.

Sidney is a beautiful village almost in the center of the county, where all classes of business are represented necessary in supplying the wants of a large tributary country, while Faragut and Riverton, on the Red Oak branch of the "Q.," are flourishing towns. Tabor, on the Tabor & Northern railroad, is also a beautiful town of lovely homes and has one of the best colleges in the state, which is patronized by many citizens of Iowa.

Fremont is a good stock country and large shipments of the same are made from her section of country at all due seasons of the year. Fremont has become famous to shippers and, in fact, is one of the greatest stock countries in the west. Lake Wahagbonsy, which lies below Bartlett and near McPaul, a short distance from the Kansas City, St. Jo & Council Bluffs railroad, affords excellent facilities for hunting and fishing. Those who are in search of permanent homes in the west would do well to investigate Fremont's excellent soil and climate, her superb railroad and educational facilities and her hospitable, enlightened and Christian citizens, who royally receive all strangers who may wish to cast lots with them in the wonderful blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa.

Fremont, you have certainly won fame abroad by your excellent exhibit in the palace of 1890 and don't fail to again make a showing in the palace of 1891; come prepared to secure first prize.

## PAGE COUNTY.

And it came to pass in those palace days that the king of the blue grass regions looked with great favor upon a county called Page, one of the most fertile sections among the entire ninety and nine counties in Iowa, whose people under his reign are prosperous and happy; the luxuriant growth of all the products of her soil is marvelous.

Page county lies due east of Fremont, south of Montgomery and west of Taylor in the extreme southern tier, joining the state of Missouri on the south; no county has greater advantages, which fact is fully demonstrated by her exhibit in the blue grass palace. She has come forth to make her obeisance to King Blue Grass and display her wonderful resources before a vast multitude. She occupies a very favorable location on the gallery floor of the beautiful building, where her attractions are indeed numerous.

In the center of this booth is a pyramid of steps, covered with cream cheese-cloth, on which are arranged elegant samples of all the fruits grown in her section of the country. We see here over seventy-five varieties of large, round, luscious red and yellow apples, delicious in flavor; in fact, such apples as are only grown in Page county. The display of peaches, pears, grapes and plums, and an elegant line of small fruits in glass jars, speak volumes for the cultivation of fruits in her section, for which her soil is admirably adapted.

The displays of grains and seeds, both in the stalk and in open sacks, are very fine and compare favorably with any we have yet seen on our rounds through the palace. Blue grass, timothy and clover denote luxuriant growth and tell a large story of waving meadows and verdant pastures. The vegetables are ranged in rows below the grain exhibit, showing

forth the wonderfully productive quality of Page county soil. Cabbage heads, larger than wooden pails, beets, carrots, onions, potatoes, parsnips, beans, egg-plants, squashes, pumpkins, tomatoes, etc.—every known vegetable which can be grown successfully in the latitude is seen here.

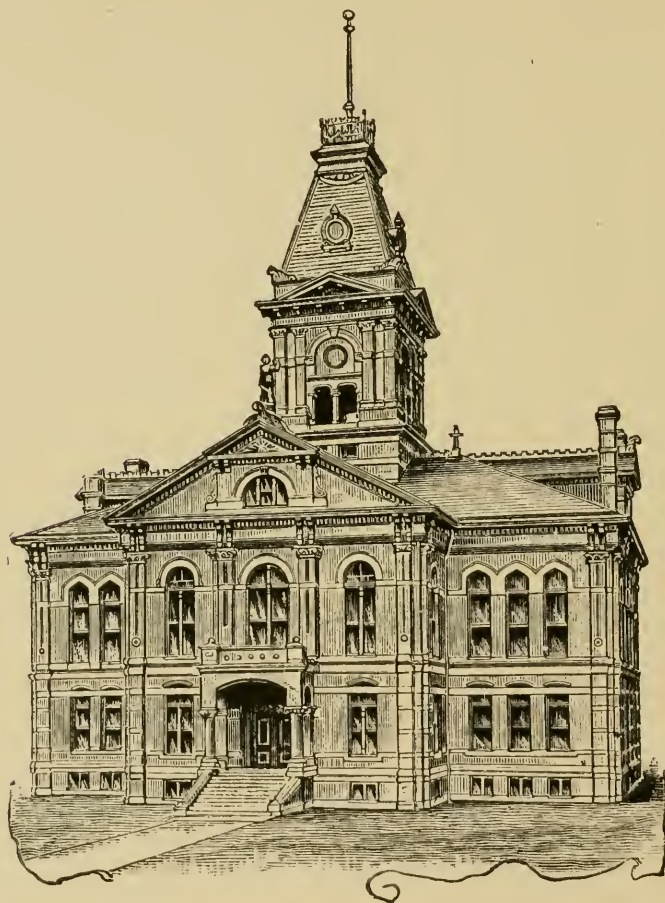
Near-by are represented her dairy interests; jars of pure, sweet butter and excellent cheese from numerous cheese manufacturers in the county are shown, and open for sampling; we pronounce them elegant and unsurpassed in the palace. If the citizens of the eastern and southern states could look upon the dairy interests of Page county, represented in this booth, in the famous blue grass regions, at Creston, Iowa, they would certainly bid adieu to home and friends and seek a home in this section of the country,

Where excellent blue grass pastures reign  
Along the bank of pure fresh streams,

and engage in the butter and cheese industry. Near the dairy interests are shown fifty varieties of native woods from along the banks of the classic Nodaway and East and West Tarkio rivers. This is a beautiful exhibit, indicative of cheap fuel and lovely landscapes.

Clarinda, the county seat of Page county, is situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route; it is a beautifully located city and full of prosperity and energy. All classes of business which are necessary to supply a large and wealthy territory tributary are successfully carried on here. The buildings in the business portion of the city are neat and mostly of brick, comparing favorably with those of other cities in southwestern Iowa, while the merchants are composed of men who are very enterprising and liberal, and are, therefore, a prosperous class.

Good schools and churches of all denominations find a permanent home in Clarinda; neither is she unmindful of her edu-



COURT-HOUSE, CLARINDA.

cational interests in the country surrounding, for neat school-houses are seen in every district, with cosy furnishings and



every convenience for the development of the mind and body. The new State Insane Asylum occupies a handsome location near this city, with beautiful grounds and equipped with all modern improvements, the fine farm in connection being entirely devoted to agriculture.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad traverses this county from north to south, while the Wabash & St. Louis passes through from northeast to southwest, affording excellent shipping facilities. Page county is noted for the fertility of its soil, which grows luxuriant crops every year, while hundreds of cattle graze in all seasons of the year on her elegant blue grass pastures. The stock shipments from her section are equal to any in the west; in fact, the number of cars of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses shipped from this region to other markets over the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and Wabash railroads in the last few years tells a wonderful story of her stock industry.

Certainly Page county is rich in all the golden shekels which she has placed before the king in the blue grass palace, rich in her soil and in her scenery, rich in coal, wood and stone, rich in elegant farms and a kind, hospitable and charitable people. Page is rich in cattle and fine horses and also rich in all the many advantages which go toward making her one of the very best counties in the noted blue grass regions of the southwestern Iowa. Shenandoah, in the extreme western portion of the county, is a beautiful city of lovely homes, costly churches and pretty school buildings and one of the best canning factories in the west.

The name of Page is being repeated over large territories of a great country, and as the season of 1891 rolls on and she is blessed again with beautiful crops and full barns, we can see her

coming up to the blue grass palace, forming the richest jewel in the casket among the entire eighteen.



HIGH SCHOOL, CLARINDA.

TAYLOR COUNTY.

Reader, will you accompany us still farther on the rounds of the famous blue grass palace? There are many other beau-

tiful and interesting places to visit and among them is the Taylor county display, in which you will love to linger, for this wigwam is one of the most beautiful and elaborately decorated ones in the palace.

Taylor county lies due east of Page, west of Ringgold and south of Adams, joining the state of Missouri on the south, and occupies a territory twenty-four miles square and about fifty miles east of the Missouri river. Her elegant booth in the palace is the first one to the right of the main entrance and occupies large space, and when we enter the magnificent apartment we are seemingly enraptured with the many beautiful scenes surrounding us. The first object which greets the eye is a castle, constructed entirely of the products of the soil, the architecture being of the latest Queen Anne pattern, with long, low Gothic windows of stained glass looking out over a beautiful blue grass lawn, on which numerous fountains are seen sending forth the tiniest of sprays, which glisten like thousands of diamonds in the sunlight. On each side of the smooth graveled walks are lovely blooming flowers, in all the different shades and colorings, while beyond the lawn rests a tranquil lake whose banks are fringed with beautiful flowers.

This is a picture for an artist to dwell upon, as the author cannot do it justice in a descriptive write-up. On either side of the castle are arranged an elegant display of fruits, vegetables, grasses and grain, while the side walls are completely covered with pictures made of seeds, clover heads, cornhusks, whole ears of corn split and sawed lengthwise and grains of corn; figures made of wheat, oats, barley, rye, millet and flax, prominent among which is a horse, life size, made entirely of red clover heads, which has been admired by thousands; a sheep made of oats and wheat heads is another attractive piece of artistic work.

In one corner of this booth we notice a large wooden egg suspended by a heavy cord from the ceiling. A small bantam hen sits on the egg, while underneath is a card on which is given an estimate of Taylor's egg shipments; the figures are enormous, and this bantam hen has the honor of having laid the golden nest-egg of success. The grain, fruits, grasses and vegetables are arranged on pyramid steps and are an interesting sight to witness, and tell a large story of the fertility of Taylor county soil, fine crops of each being grown here every year. Sample products of the dairy are represented in large pails of fine, pure, sweet butter, and elegant cheese from her many manufactories of this article. From the dairy alone Taylor reaps large profits every year.

Taylor county is noted for its great agricultural resources and some of the finest farming lands in the state are found here. And she cannot be excelled in the west as a stock county. Large shipments of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep are made from Bedford, Gravity, New Market, Lenox and Conway, and her dairy shipments are equal to any in the blue grass regions. The fine nutritious grasses in this county furnish a feed for cattle which not only fattens them but imparts to their flesh a flavor that makes them in large demand in the eastern markets. The milk from the cows is rich and produces the finest quality of butter. As an instance of this we refer to the fact that the product of her creameries, which run during the entire winter and summer, sells readily at 35 cents per pound. The horses produced in Taylor county are fast gaining a national reputation for their perfect development and buyers visit the different towns in this county every day in quest of these animals to supply the demand they have for them in the eastern and southern markets.



Sheep of the finest grade and development come also from the blue grass pastures of Taylor county and the market in Chicago has again and again been topped by them.

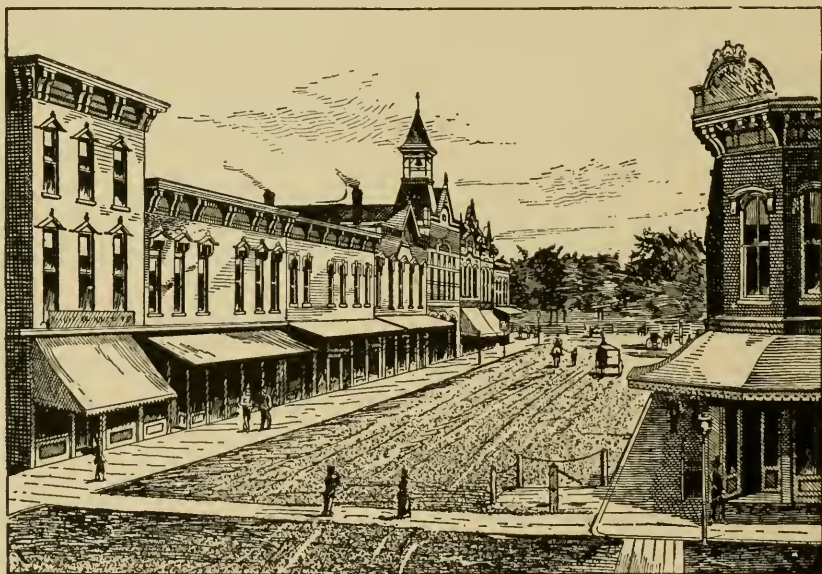
The drainage of the land in this section is fine, while plenty of water flows through all portions of the county, the peaceful Nodaway, Platte river and Honey creek, whose valleys are teeming with a luxuriant growth of blue grass, affording excellent pasturage for stock. About thirty-five years ago the seed of the Kentucky blue grass was sown to some extent in Taylor county, and it has gradually increased until it seems to spring spontaneously from the ground, covering the pastures and forming a beautiful rich, green coating in the timber lots, springing up along the highways, and on the open prairies it grows and matures in all its richness and strength. In the fall this grass falls down into a soft mat or carpet, and under its protection the young sprouts grow on until the ground is frozen, and in the winter this grass affords a rich, fine feed for the stock which the farmers of Taylor county produce in abundance, the quality of which cannot be surpassed in the Union.

There are ten towns in this county. Bedford is the county seat and contains over 2,000 inhabitants; it is situated on the Kansas City branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, which traverses her section from northwest to southeast, while the Wabash & St. Louis, H. & S. and Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City lines furnish direct communication and ample shipping facilities.

Bedford has one of the finest locations in the blue grass regions of southwest Iowa, and is noted for being one of the best towns in the state of its size, because through all the trials and changes that are common to a new country and a new town the



citizens of Bedford have never allowed their town to take a backward step. No fictitious boom has overtaken it with vacant houses, but a steady growth amply justified by the increasing wealth of the surrounding country has always characterized it. No single man or corporation has grown up to monopolize the interest and absorb all the wealth, and thus they have a city of comfortably well-off citizens, who, being property

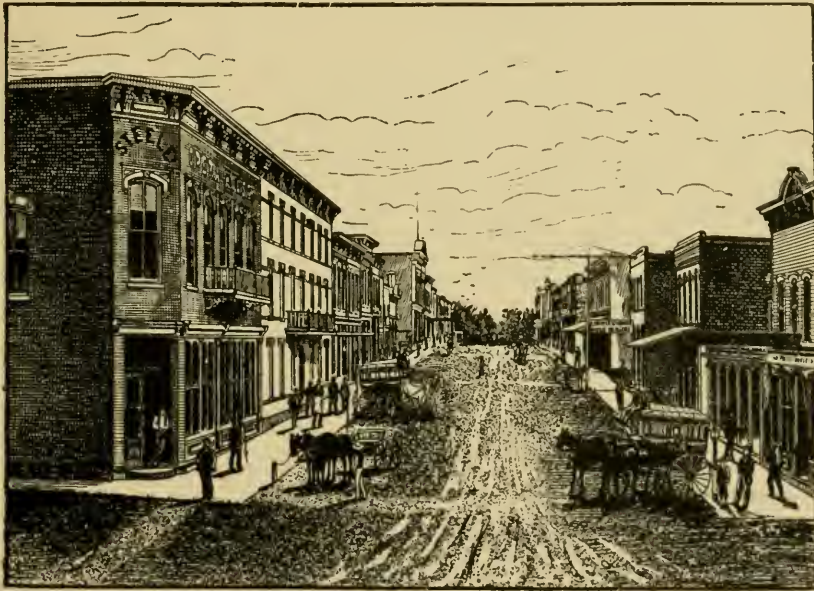


COURT STREET, BEDFORD—LOOKING NORTH.

owners, are all personally interested in the success of their city.

There is not a city of the same size in southwestern Iowa that has so many substantial brick business blocks as Bedford. They are all neat and conveniently arranged, and having been built close together give the street a business-like appearance and add greatly to the appearance of this portion of

the city. The early settlers took great care to plant out innumerable fine shade and ornamental trees along the walks, which have now grown to considerable size and spread out their heavy foliage beneath the hot summer's sun, making a most delightful, inviting shade. Pure water of the best quality is obtained in abundance at a depth of from twenty to forty feet. She is free from bonded



MAIN STREET, BEDFORD—LOOKING WEST.

indebtedness, has a fine high school costing \$25,000 and as fine a city hall as can be found in the west. Pretty churches of all denominations adorn her streets, while the public school system ranks with any in the state; she has an excellent, well-equipped fire company furnished with a large chemical engine and fine

teams of horses. Within the limits of the corporation are fine quarries of limestone, while bricks of excellent quality are manufactured here. Bedford offers a home to the family desiring an atmosphere of purity and intelligence and invites such to come and live within her borders.

The climate is the same as is generally common to the blue grass regions, which is sufficiently known for its healthfulness. Here comfort, health, vigor and long life are the rule, not the exception. The cold winter storms that sweep over other northern countries are broken before they reach this fair county and the growing grass and budding trees give evidence of returning life, while the frozen soil of Dakota, Minnesota and northern Iowa are still held in the cold embrace of winter.

Such is a brief description of Taylor county, which came 3,000 strong to the great industrial exhibition, accompanied by the elegant Fifth Regiment band of Bedford, which discoursed some excellent music in the beautiful auditorium during their sojourn at the palace. It is not our intention to create a boom; we aim to present facts, giving a truthful word picture without coloring or exaggeration.

If this should attract the attention of any seeking homes, we simply ask them to examine this section of country. Men who have the means with which to buy a farm or start in business in one of these towns will find a country here that is beautiful to look upon, and never fails to produce a fair crop, and has a people noted for their intelligence and morality. To all who can appreciate such advantages Taylor extends a hearty welcome.

Taylor's exhibit in the blue grass palace was an index of what her country affords, and was admired by a multitude; so the great king invited her to the great carnival of 1891. We predict that she will come up to the palace city with the



cap sheaf on top, the richest and most elaborate decoration ever witnessed in any country under the beautiful, dazzling sun.

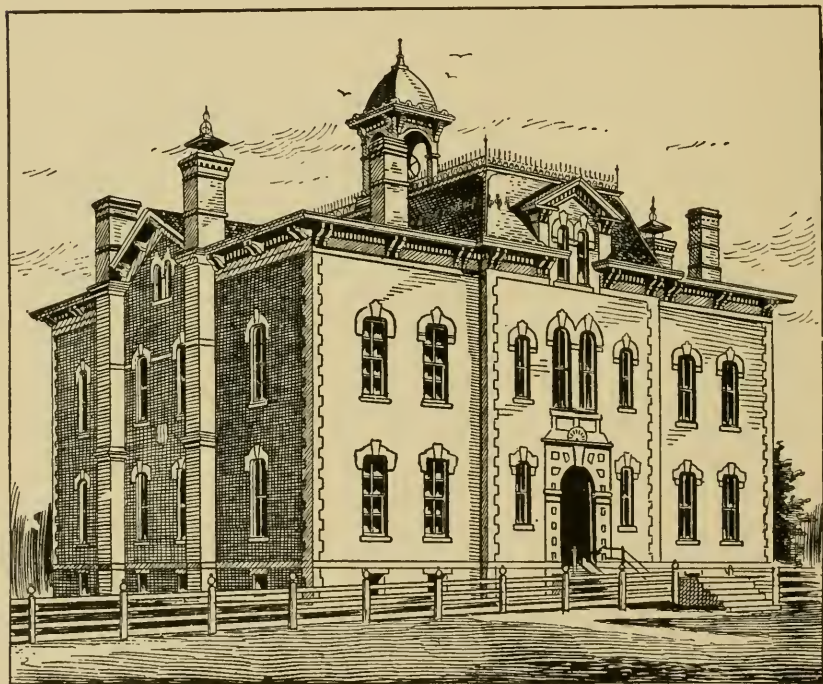
The following cut represents the Bedford Business College and Institute of Shorthand, Barrett & Clark, proprietors. This new educational institution opened its doors for the enrollment



BEDFORD BUSINESS COLLEGE.

of students, Monday, March 2, 1891. To date there have been enrolled about forty students and the indications are that within the year the enrollment will reach up in the hundreds. The college has been fitted up by the proprietors in an elegant

manner for the reception of students. It is certain that the business men of Bedford did a grand thing when they secured for their city this excellent institution and the citizens of Bed-



BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL.

ford and of Taylor county will give it their hearty support and co-operation. In the opening of this institution one more laurel has been added to the educational wealth of the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa and we hope to see it liberally patronized by the citizens of our state.



## RINGGOLD COUNTY.

Ringgold's fleecy curtains are drawn aside and we peer next into her beautiful portals. We gaze first on this side of beauty and magnificence and then on that. Ringgold is crowned in all her richest jewels to-day, for she has come up to the palace to share her profits and products with the great king of the blue grass regions. She is Decatur's nearest neighbor on the west, but not a pang of jealousy crosses her heart on account of her sister's elaborate display in the next apartment; neither is she the least envious of another handsome sister called Union on the north, nor of sister Taylor on the west, and, as the great king casts his eye over this elegant display made by Ringgold, he breaks forth in the following enthusiasm: "Ringgold, you are all my heart desires you to be! Come, you gifted of the land! Come, my people, from your seclusion in the forests and gaze upon the great display of enterprise and genius made by Ringgold in the carnival of 1890! Look upon all these delicious fruits and vegetables, manipulated by the hands of Ringgold's fair sons and daughters. Behold this luxuriant corn in the stalk and in the ear! a valuable product of Ringgold's loamy soil. Gaze on the beauties of her golden grains and grasses cut from her meadows and the blossoms of the red and white clover.

"See the elegant blocks of wood cut from her beautiful native forests and the huge samples of building stone from her exhaustless quarries. Ringgold, you are, indeed, a favored spot in the famous regions over which your people have anointed me king. You are rich in all your many landed possessions. Your cattle and horses graze on a thousand blue grass hills and in all your lovely valleys, and the quiet, picturesque streams which steal their way through your section furnish them abundance of pure water.

"Your railroad facilities are excellent for shipping stock and grain, while the beautiful village of Mt. Ayr, which is your county seat, is situated on the greatest blue grass route under the sun. Your whole country is dotted with beautiful and highly improved farms. Neat houses of worship and cosy school buildings adorn each district in all the multiplied gifts which the great Ruler of the universe has bestowed upon you, and it seems that you have not been unmindful of your christian duty, or your educational interests, either in the city or country. You have come up to the palace in a most dazzling array of splendor. Your gorgeous attire and handsome decorations are a revelation to a vast multitude who have gazed on them.

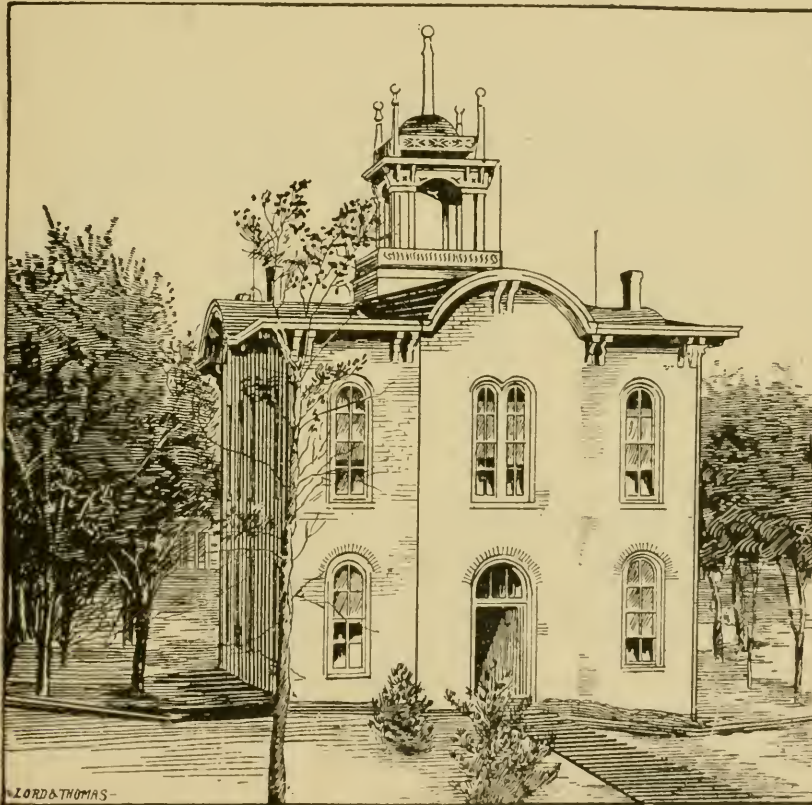
"Your farms rank among the best in the state and thrift, prosperity and comfort surround them all. After the harvests of 1891 are past and you have garnered the golden grains and your corn is ripe in the ear, when the blue grass, timothy and clover have dropped their seed, load up the chariot again with all the products of your rich soil, come up to the palace, choose a location, and adorn, decorate and embellish it that the whole world may learn of Ringgold's landed estate."

#### DECATUR COUNTY.

The next county of interest that has come up to the grass carnival in all glory, honor, profit and praise, tendering a rich tribute to the king, is Decatur, Wayne county's western neighbor, lying due south of Lucas in the extreme southern tier of counties and east of Ringgold.

Decatur occupies a favorite booth in the palace and the king smiles as he looks upon her excellently arranged exhibit. Three sides of the booth are thrown open for public gaze and, as

we look for the first time on the rich products of her soil, we are completely dazzled, as it were, with the many beautiful things which meet our gaze. The ceiling and side walls are



COURT-HOUSE, LEON.

completely covered with exquisite arrangements of corn, oats, wheat and blue grass, while a pyramid of pure cream shelving forms a background for the delicious fruits in season; fine apples

a specialty; large quantities of grapes, peaches, plums, pears and quinces are very tempting and an elegant display of small fruits



FARMERS AND TRADERS' BANK, LEON.

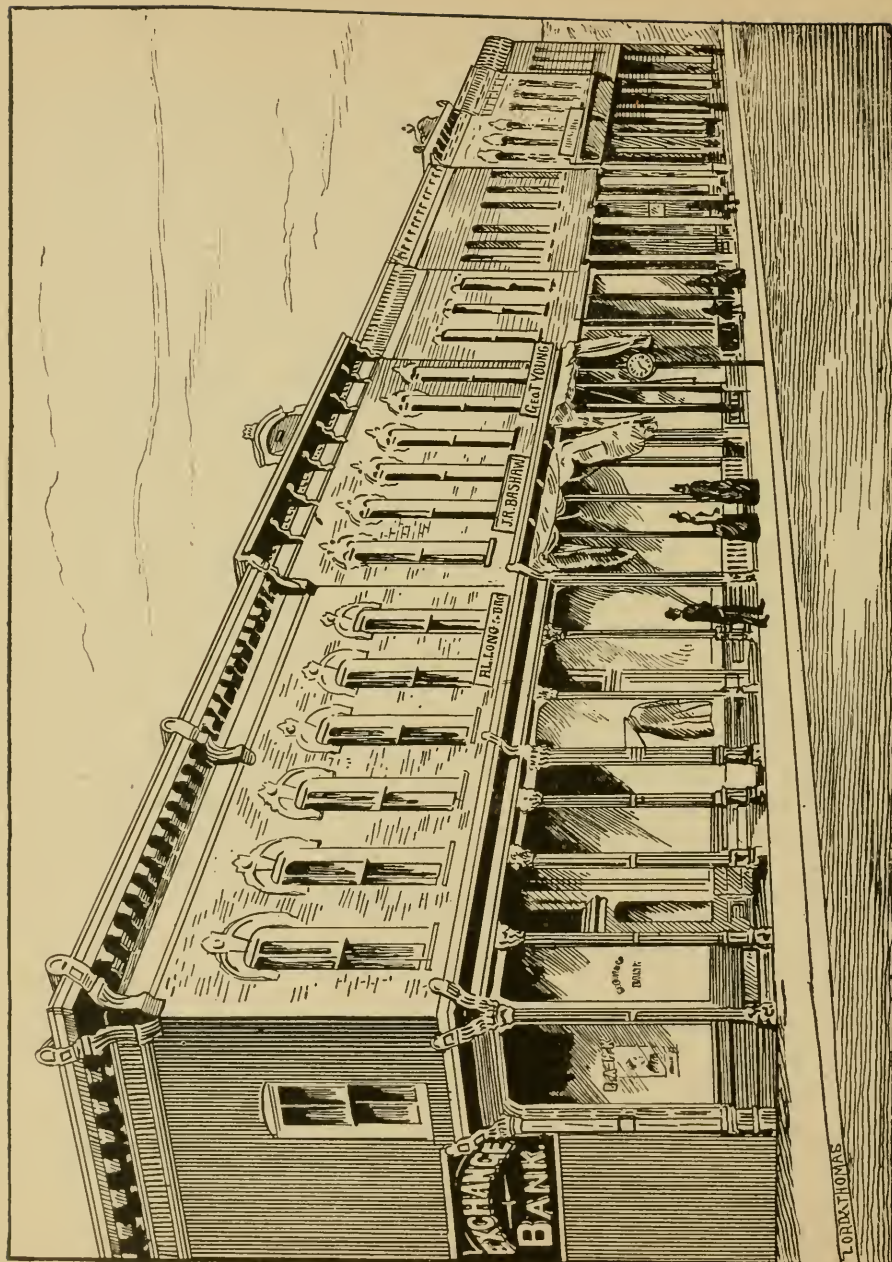
is shown in jars, put up by Decatur's household. The grain exhibit is fine; corn, both on the stalk and in glass jars, is looked



upon with envious eyes by farmers from less favored sections. Oats in the stalk and in jars, wheat, barley, millet, rye and flax are immense. The native woods on exhibition from timber growing along the banks of the Grand and Weldon rivers in this county are a very interesting and novel exhibit—advantages of cheap fuel. These streams also furnish abundance of pure water for stock and the luxuriant growth of blue grass in these valleys supplies ample feed for cattle and horses during the summer and fall months or in moderate seasons the year round.

Leon is the county seat of Decatur county, situated on the Chariton branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, which passes through the county from northeast to southwest, while the Wabash & St. Louis extends through the northern portion, affording excellent facilities for shipping stock, grain and miscellaneous articles, which command the highest prices in other markets. The citizens of this county are an educated and enterprising class of people, while comfortable homes, school-houses and churches are seen on every hand and if the stranger from other lands could look over Decatur's great resources when the fields of golden grain are ready for the harvest, or when the orchards are ripe with the mellow fruits of autumn, or even when her extended prairies are covered with a verdure of velvet green, he would certainly wish that he might live among the kind people of Decatur county. Leon is a lovely village and all classes of business are established here, active in supplying the wants of a large, rich and fertile country surrounding them. Decatur has made an excellent showing in the blue grass carnival and her great resources have been advertised throughout the land. Come again, fair Decatur; you will be welcome.





WEST SIDE SQUARE, LEON.



MAIN STREET, LEON—LOOKING SOUTH.

## WAYNE COUNTY.

Wayne county joins lands with Appanoose county on the east, is in the extreme southern tier, and Lucas bounds her on the north and Decatur on the west. This county has placed an elegant exhibit in the palace in honor of the king of the blue grass regions, being one of the favored among the eighteen which belong to the Blue Grass League. Wayne has come forth to the palace loaded down with all the products of her soil and has arranged them with great skill in one of the most convenient locations on the ground floor of the elegant building. This exhibit tells a profitable story of the industry and wealth which she possesses. Three sides of the booth are arranged in the form of steps, covered with delicate cream muslin on which are displayed elegant varieties of all the fruits in season, tempting all who look upon them. From these one can imagine that the fruit production from these regions is unsurpassed.

The display of grains, both in the stalk and in sacks, speaks volumes for Wayne's prolific soil; corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, millet, flax, timothy, blue grass and clover are the chief productions, and the samples of each displayed in this booth are excellent in variety and quality. The vegetables are a revelation. A complete garden patch, filled with all the well-matured vegetables which grow in this latitude from Wayne's fertile soil; one almost wishes they might live in this beautiful section of country, when gazing on her fruit, vegetable and grain exhibit.

The dairy interest is well represented in firkins of pure butter and golden cheese; from this one industry alone she reaps large profits every year. The display of native wood from the timber in this county is fine and indicates abundance of cheap fuel for all inhabitants. The decorations of the ceiling and

side walls are of corn, oats, timothy and blue grass, arranged with pretty effect.

Corydon is the county seat of Wayne, situated on the Wabash & St. Louis railroad, which passes through the county from east to west, while the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific passes through the southern portion of the county, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul also traverses her section, affording excellent transportation and shipping facilities. This county is noted for its mineral resources, there being ten coal mines in operation in the county, the principal one being located at Seymour—the Occidental & Co-operative Coal Company. The vein of coal which is being operated in this county is about two feet and a half thick and belongs to the middle coal measures and is of good quality for domestic purposes. The Occidental mine at Seymour is an exceedingly large one and is doing a large shipping business. The county produced in one year 34,000 tons of coal. Wayne county for rich soil, healthful climate, splendid drainage, fine cattle, sheep, hogs and horses, abundance of pure, running water, a kind, hospitable and charitable people. Numerous school-houses and neat houses of worship greet the eye of the traveler in every district and when the stranger from other lands enters our state with the intention of locating within her borders he may find all that is desirable for a happy home in Wayne county.

#### APPANOOSE COUNTY.

Appanoose is the next county represented in the blue grass palace and we ask the reader to follow us closely through this romantic abode. You will be delighted when you gaze upon her many natural advantages and her beautiful artistic decorations. The first interesting object which greets the eye of the



visitor is the Goddess of Liberty, clothed in a combination suit of clover, timothy and blue grass, while the crown consists of the



COURT-HOUSE AT CENTREVILLE.

stars and stripes and her left hand bears aloft the American flag. This goddess gracefully stands on a pedestal constructed

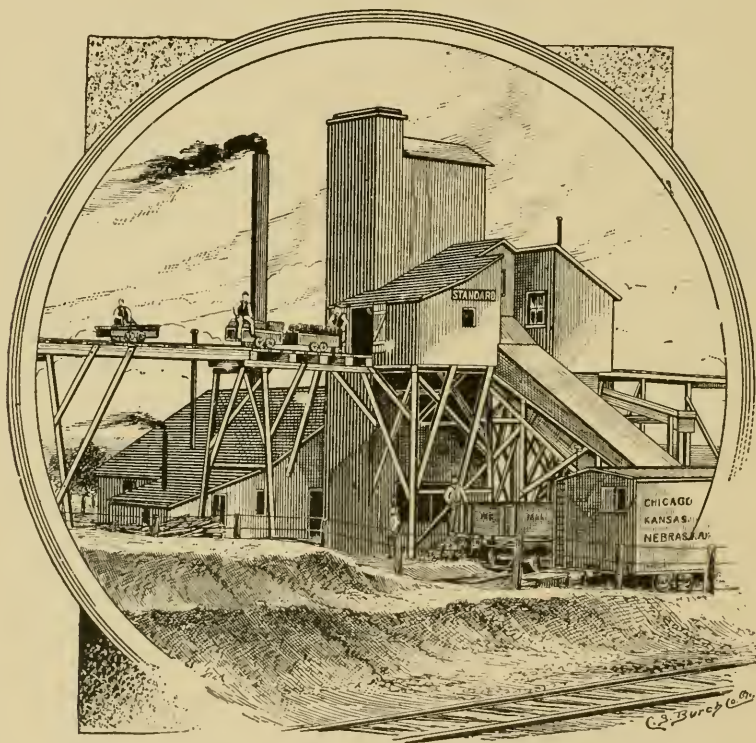


entirely of the products of the soil, in all her fair American beauty, while on her right side is seen a large, savage-looking wolf, a wild cat, several species of wild fowls and a card bearing the date 1840. On the left hand are seen tame fowls, pigs (in clover) and several sheep grazing in a pretty blue grass pasture, and a card bearing the date 1890. This is a picture greatly admired by thousands of visitors every day in the palace and one from which the reader may draw his or her own conclusions. The ceiling decorations are manipulated with genius and skill, having been the work of fair ladies living in Appanoose county. The side walls are entirely covered with green corn-stalks, wheat and oats, the combination being beautifully wrought.

Another valuable exhibit occupies a prominent place near the entrance and is the largest block of coal in the palace, from the noted Centreville mines in this county. Near it are seen fine samples of building stone, brick and tile, also fifty-six varieties of wood, taken from the native timber in Appanoose county.

Let us now turn our attention to the displays of fruits, vegetables, grasses and grains, which are equal to other displays of this kind in the palace, and are looked upon with eyes of favor by all visitors, while the king is equally as well pleased with their excellence in variety and quality. Appanoose makes a specialty of fine apples and she certainly deserves great credit in this display, with other fruits equally as fine. The grain exhibit is an excellent one and tells plainly the composition of the soil in Appanoose county. Corn in the ear and in glass jars, oats, rye, barley, millet, flax, etc., all denote very heavy growth and can be produced in large quantities yearly in this beautiful section of country.

Appanoose is noted also for its numerous coal beds, fine farms, elegant blue grass pastures, fine stock, thriving villages, numerous churches and neat district schools and as having an intelligent and enterprising class of people. The coal which is



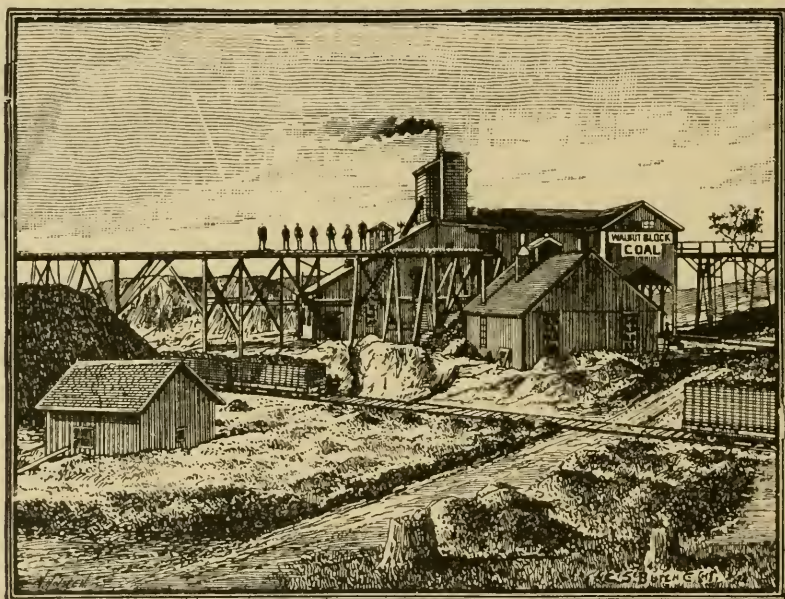
STANDARD COAL COMPANY, CENTREVILLE.

operated in this county is of the middle coal measures and is two feet and a half thick; it extends with more uniformity of thickness than the coal of any other county in the first district and is of excellent quality for domestic purposes. There are

thirty-three mines in the county; twelve of these have railroad facilities for shipping coal. The Appanoose Coal Company is located at Cincinnati, on the Chicago, Burlington & Kansas City railroad. There are other mines in the county that do a good business in the winter season, but have to haul their coal to the railroad with teams. There are five mines at Centreville that have excellent shipping facilities. The Scandinavian Coal Company and the Centreville Coal Company are located on the Keokuk & Western railroad. The Watson Coal Company, the Diamond Mine No. 2 and the Standard Coal Company are located on the southwestern branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad. The Standard mine has excellent railroad facilities for shipping coal on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and on the Keokuk & Western railroads. The mine at Numa, seven miles west of Centreville, on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, has facilities for shipping coal. There are five mines at Brazil—the Walnut Coal Company, the Philby Coal Company, the Tipton Coal Company, the Hawk Eye Coal Company and B. F. Silknetter—either slope or drift mines and operated with mule power. All do a shipping business on the Keokuk & Western railroad. The vein here is about two feet ten inches in thickness and of the lower coal measures. Two mines here are worked on the long wall system—the Philby mine and the Walnut mine. The others are on the room and pillar system. The Elden mine No. 2 is located west of Centreville, formerly known as the Co-operative mine, and has no railroad facilities for shipping coal. The Diamond mine No. 1 and McLard mine are located at Centreville and do a large local business. This county produced in 1886 150,000 tons of coal; in 1887 it produced 160,351 tons, being an increase of 10,351 tons. The mines in this county

are prepared to largely increase their output whenever the demand calls for it.

Appanoose, aside from her large coal beds, has as fine farming lands as are found in the state of Iowa. The shipments of cattle, hogs and horses foot up large sums every year in her section of country, while the dairy interests are equal to any in

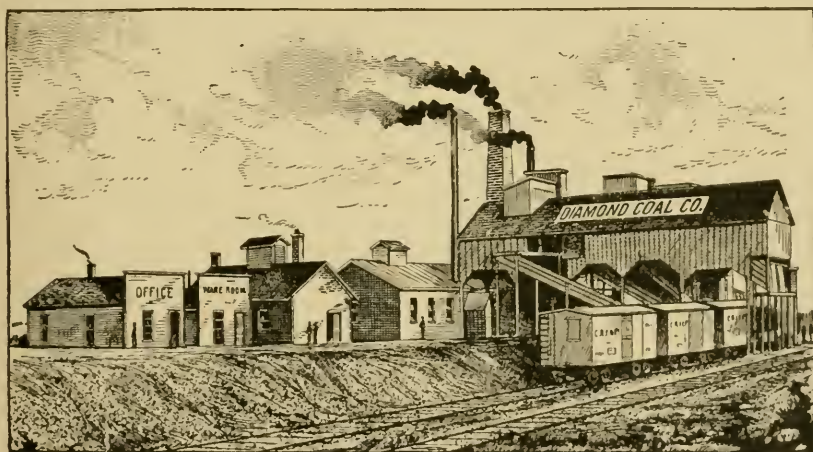


WALNUT COAL COMPANY, CENTREVILLE.

the blue grass regions. The drainage is excellent and bountiful harvests reward the farmer every year for his labor. Abundance of pure fresh water flows through these regions and the climate is all that is desirable—neither too cold in winter nor too warm in summer.



Centreville is the county seat of Appanoose and is beautifully situated in the center of the county on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad and on the Wabash & St. Louis, while the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad passes through the southern portion of the county. Centreville is one of the best towns in southern Iowa and commands a large trade from a rich surrounding country. All classes of business are established here, while her merchants are composed of an enterprising and



DIAMOND COAL COMPANY, CENTREVILLE.

liberal class, ready at all times to furnish every advantage pertaining to the advancement of their city and county. The business blocks in this city are solidly built, which denotes business prosperity, while handsome homes adorn the residence portion. Elegant school buildings and an efficient school system are two things of which Centreville is justly proud, while costly churches of all denominations find a permanent home here. The inhabitants of Centreville are an educated and



charitable people and royally welcome all strangers who may enter her gates, and by the elegant display in the blue grass palace Appanoose has introduced herself to thousands of people from other countries, who are deeply impressed, not only with her beautiful exhibit, but also with the great natural resources which she possesses. When the blue grass palace opens in August next, no doubt she will come forward with a far more elaborate display in honor of the king of the blue grass regions than she has yet made; therefore, we kindly invite those seeking homes in the great west or in the state of Iowa to look favorably upon the many natural advantages possessed by Appanoose county.

#### LUCAS COUNTY.

The next county which claims our attention in the blue grass carnival is that of Lucas, situated between Monroe and Clark, in the second tier from the Missouri line, with Marion and Warren on the north, while Wayne joins lands with her on the south, forming a separating line between the coal palace regions of southeastern Iowa and the blue grass regions of the southwest portion of our great state.

Lucas county is noted for its deep, fertile soil, which never wears out, and for its great mineral resources, there being at the present time thirteen coal mines in operation in the county. The principal ones are at Cleveland, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which affords them excellent facilities for the shipping of coal. The products of these mines are shipped to western Iowa and Nebraska, the coal being of excellent quality for steam and domestic purposes. The White Breast Coal company has 5,000 acres of land between Lucas and Chariton, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad.

The next largest mine is at Zero, on the main line of the "Q.," the products of which are mostly shipped to Nebraska. There are quite a number of smaller mines in the vicinity of Chariton, all doing a good coal business. The soil in Lucas county yields unusually large returns to the farmers of their section, abundant crops being grown here every year.

The exhibit in the palace is arranged on pyramid steps, covered with cream colored muslin, on which are skillfully arranged flowers, fruits, grasses, vegetables and grain and all varieties of seeds. What elegant corn they grow in Lucas! is a common remark heard every day in the palace; we find it to be of excellent quality and quantity, both on the stalk and in jars, while numerous large, round, filled ears occupy conspicuous places throughout the whole exhibit. The displays of oats and wheat denote prolific growth, while elegant samples of barley, millet and flax are shown. The quantity and quality of timothy, blue grass and clover seed are very fine and Lucas is certainly very rich in her landscape, luxuriant meadows and pasture lands. The display of fruits is a subject of much conversation among visitors to this elegant booth and Lucas can certainly boast of fine orchards and vineyards. The small fruits put up in glass jars by the fair ladies of Lucas are a surprise. Blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, currants, gooseberries and an excellent line of home-made jellies.

What a magnificent fruit production is this placed before the admiring eyes of thousands in the blue grass palace. A veritable "garden patch" is represented here, filled with all the different varieties of well-matured vegetables grown in this latitude, and speaks volumes for the fertility of Lucas county soil. Cabbages, carrots, beets, turnips, onions, egg plants, pota-

toes, squashes, pumpkins, peppers; in fact, everything in the vegetable line are seen in this booth.

The public schools of Chariton occupy the entire west side with an elegant display of school work, which tells a splendid story of the interest manifested by the pupils of this city in their public school work. No city in the state can boast of better educational facilities than Chariton, county seat of Lucas county.

The next prominent feature in this booth is the dairy interests of Lucas, represented by firkins of pure rich butter and a number of elegant cheeses. From this industry Lucas reaps immense profits every year, being looked after by an intelligent and wealthy class.

The sample of native wood on exhibition from timber along the banks of her creeks and rivers indicates cheap fuel in this line also, as well as in coal. Sandstone and coal form another interesting and valuable exhibit in this booth, which speaks of cheap building material in her section.

The beautiful decoration of the ceiling in this booth is made of grasses and grains and green corn on the stalk, artistically arranged, while several pieces of esthetic fancy work adorn the side walls. Handsome photographs of fine county buildings, city and farm residences occupy prominent places here and there throughout this elegant boudoir. Lucas is certainly rich in her landed possessions and she has not been at all backward in bringing together a most excellent showing of the products of her soil, placing them before the great king of the blue grass regions and a multitude of invited guests.

Chariton, the county seat of Lucas county, is beautifully located on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, and contains 4,000 inhabitants and is one of the best towns in the state of Iowa.

The business portion of the city is solidly built of fine brick blocks, while the streets are broad and attractive—pleasing to the eye of all visitors who may be sojourning in the city. Numerous classes of business are established here and merchants are active in supplying the wants of a large and wealthy country tributary.

The residence portion of the city contains some very elegant homes and tasty cottages, while fine, commodious school buildings are seen in every ward.

Chariton dotes on her churches, which are a source of great pride to all her people; therefore, all denominations of the Christian religion find a pleasant and permanent home in this city.

The citizens of Chariton are an aristocratic and hospitable class of people and are adepts in the art of entertaining strangers who may be sojourning in their city, while the farmers throughout the country surrounding her are an honest, zealous class who till the soil, being sure of good crops every year, raise stock for the market, make butter and cheese, improve their homes, train and educate their children, taking at all times great pride in their churches.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad passes through the heart of the city from east to west, while a handsome brick depot with limestone trimmings is a leading ornament to Chariton. Hutchison & Abel, hotel men of fame, run the elegant hotel in connection with the depot, where the traveler may have the pleasure of sitting down to the very best meals served on the continent. The delicious viands served by Hutchison & Abel cannot fail to please the taste of the most fastidious epicurean, being served in the most perfect and satisfactory manner at all times. These noted gentlemen also control the

depot hotels at Ottumwa, Burlington and Red Oak, Iowa, where meals are served in the same elegant style as at Chariton.

A line of road branches out from Chariton north to Des Moines and one south to St. Joseph, Mo., both through a fine agricultural country. Lucas is a great stock country and hundreds of cars of the same are shipped yearly to other markets, always finding ready sale. Abundance of fresh water and rich blue grass pastures make her one of the finest grazing countries in the west. The lay of the land is such in Lucas that elegant crops are grown here every year and the farmer liberally rewarded for his labor; therefore, she is a favored spot in the noted blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa. Her people are a prosperous and happy race and when a stranger from less favored regions comes west in search of permanent homes we can only say: Pass not by, but stop in Lucas and look carefully through her section and note her many excellent and natural advantages.

#### CLARKE COUNTY.

And now we have come to Clarke county and our interest grows deeper and deeper the longer we travel together through the Eden of the new world and through her palace so marvelously constructed of the products of her soil, which we can only compare to the hanging gardens of Babylon—so grand and magnificent that seemingly some mysterious hand has wrought the elaborate decorations instead of having been made by those belonging to human beings.

The latchstring on the entrance to Clarke's romantic abode hangs on the outside and we take advantage of the extended hospitality and pass in to gaze upon the royal holiday attire in which she presents herself to the world. We find her glittering, as it were, with all the many beautiful things which her



country affords. Even the king is very lavish in his admiration of Clarke's handsome showing in the palace and of her marvelous resources.

The ceiling decorations are unsurpassed in the palace, having the appearance of a luxuriant meadow ready for the harvest, while in the center is a star made of red and white beans. Three sides of this booth have been decorated for the eyes of an admiring public in all the rich products which her soil affords and when we have examined them we are proud to name Iowa our native state.

The fruits which adorn the tables in this booth are very fine, and judging from the exhibit the orchards in her section are thrifty spots and filled with luscious, rosy-cheeked apples, the soil being perfectly adapted to the successful cultivation of fruits.

The vegetables rank with any we have yet seen in the palace, while the product of the dairy forms a very interesting feature; jars of sweet, fresh butter, and elegant creamy cheese are shown, from which she reaps large profits every year.

The public schools of Osceola have an excellent exhibit of their public school work on the south wall, which speaks volumes for the educational interests of Clarke county. Fine pictures of county, buildings, churches, schools, city and farm residences adorn the north wall.

Osceola is the county seat of Clarke county, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, about thirty-three miles east of Creston. A branch line runs north from here to Des Moines and south to Leon, in Decatur county.

Clarke county is noted for its productive soil, bountiful harvests, beautiful landscapes and as being one of the very best stock counties in the west. The homes of the farmers in these

regions are teeming with thrift, prosperity and comfort. The Grand river and tributaries, which flow through all portions of the county, afford an excellent supply of pure water for stock, while the native timber along their banks furnishes cheap fuel for her fires. The prairies and valleys are carpeted with a rich, velvety verdure of blue grass, on which hundreds of cattle graze the year round in moderate seasons. Much attention has been given to fruit culture in this county during the last few years and all kinds of apples, cherries, grapes, plums, pears and small fruits may be produced in great abundance by proper cultivation. The farmers generally raise all the apples needed for their own use, while many barrels have been shipped to other markets.

There is but little wild, open land in this county, which is timber land; nothing but improved farms in Clarke.

Osceola is a prosperous town of about 3,000 inhabitants, where numerous classes of business are established, which are necessary in supplying a wealthy tributary territory, while the merchants are an upright, honest and liberal class.

The various religious denominations all have church homes in this picturesque town, each having a large membership, while as handsome a court-house and grounds as is found in the state is seen in this city. Osceola would not for the world be behind the times in this valuable improvement. Neither would Clarke county, for it is a very necessary and valuable one.

Elegant school buildings are seen here and her public school system is an efficient one; the residence portion of the city is filled with costly residences and tasteful cottages, while all her people are contented and happy, being a wide-awake and liberal-minded class.

The business portion of the city is solidly built and the streets wide and prettily bordered by shade trees, making it a lovely residence town. If any person living in the cramped-up eastern states contemplates moving west, he can safely come to this section of country and find all that is desirable in a comfortable and profitable home among the enterprising people of Clarke county, who, in common with her sister counties of the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa, produces pasturage and hay that cannot be excelled on the earth; her tame pastures, and especially her winter blue grass pastures, are her pride, as they are the source of profit for her well-to-do and intelligent farmers and stock-growers.

Clarke has made a lasting impression on the multitude by the excellent display she has made in the blue grass palace and all hope to again meet her in the palace of 1891 and also in the Iowa exhibit at the world's fair in 1893.

#### WARREN COUNTY.

The next display of interest and beauty which we would kindly invite the reader to accompany us through is the one made by Warren county. She has come up to the palace decorated with genius and skill and all visitors are delighted as they look upon her elegant apartments. Warren is one of the richest among the eighteen comprising the blue grass regions, and lies immediately north of Clarke and Lucas, joining lands with Marion county on the east, while Madison bounds her on the west and Polk on the north.

Indianola is the county seat of Warren, situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route, which passes through the county entire from north to south, while the Rock Island & Pacific penetrates her section from

northeast to southwest, affording excellent facilities for shipping purposes.

It is also one of the richest in coal in the state, having twenty coal mines in operation. The principal ones are the Lumesden Bros. and the Summerset Coal company. The vein of coal here is three feet and one-half in thickness and is of the middle coal measures; it is of excellent quality. There are four mines on Middle river, three miles south of Summerset, all doing a good business. The mines at Lacona and Milo are operated in the upper vein of coal, which is from fourteen to eighteen inches in thickness, and are dependent upon local sales for their business. This county does not produce much coal for the number of mines it has in operation, as the railroads do not run in the right direction; therefore, it is handicapped for the want of an outlet in western markets. It produced in 1889 24,796 tons.

The fruit culture is one of Warren's best interests; therefore, an excellent variety of apples, grapes, pears and plums is shown in this booth, arranged on long white tables, while numerous jars of all kinds of small fruits are displayed, tempting the appetite of all visitors to the palace.

The excellent grain exhibit, placed here in open sacks, denotes that Warren's soil is well adapted to the raising of all kinds of grains which grow in our latitude, while the vegetables are of excellent quality, another proof of her elegant soil.

The display of seeds, especially those of blue grass, timothy and clover, tells of fine meadows and pastures in her section, which for grazing and producing tame grasses cannot be surpassed in the state of Iowa, nor in the great west, not even excepting the blue grass regions of old Kentucky. The blue grass regions of Iowa are fast discounting that famed land, not

only in the production of blue grass, but in fine stock as well. No *scrub stock* in Warren county. Excellent butter and cheese are seen here, which compare favorably with those from other counties in the blue grass regions, and Warren ships thousands of pounds of the same every year, which find ready sale on the markets of the south and east.

Warren county is blessed with everything which goes toward the making up of a happy country, but needs a few more people. She is blessed with good schools, cozy churches, substantial bridges, highways and railroads.

Farm lands are constantly on the increase and good houses, barns, fences and orchards are being placed upon them, which compare with any of those seen in our eastern states, and she is ready to welcome at any time the strangers who may be seeking a home in the west, and to any who are willing to cast their lot with hers in the famous blue grass belt she extends a cordial welcome.

Indianola, the county seat of Warren, is situated in the heart of a great agricultural region and contains a hospitable, charitable and liberal-minded class of people, while neat churches and school buildings, pretty residences and cottages are seen scattered throughout the entire village.

The country surrounding Indianola is noted for the pretty landscapes and the great fertility of its soil, which grows bountiful crops every year, and the farmers of this section are an enterprising and wealthy class. A large supply of timber grows along the banks of the Middle river, North river and Badger creek, adding to the beauty of her landscapes and affording cheap fuel for her inhabitants and shelter for stock in winter.

Warren can well afford to parade her great resources before a multitude and she will no doubt come forth to the



palace of 1891 with all the pride and splendor which her country knows so well how to assume and all her many advantages will be proclaimed to the world. Hurrah for Warren!

MADISON COUNTY.

Madison county joins Warren on the east, Union and Clarke on the south, Adair on the west and Dallas on the north.

Madison is proud of her name and proud of her country, and she has no intention of being outrivalled by her adjoining sisters in the famed blue grass regions; therefore, she has come forth to the palace bedecked in all the fine products of her soil. The king seems greatly pleased with the offering she makes in the carnival and looks upon her with eyes of favor.

The ceiling and side walls in this booth are handsomely decorated, while the most novel and interesting centerpiece in the entire palace is displayed herein. Reader, guess what it is; can you? A real log cabin constructed of fifty-six different kinds of wood, all native of Madison, and is roofed over with clapboards, the style and finish being of the famous Daniel Boone pattern, handsomely wrought out in the rude construction. The latchstring hangs gracefully on the outside, which means "walk in; you are welcome."

On the corner of this novel cabin are seen strings of quartered apples and pumpkins hung up to dry for the winter's use. Coon skins are tacked up along one side, while mole skins adorn the back part and a large, old commonplace chimney runs from the ground up, with a fireplace on the inside. This cabin is a drawing card and Madison has caught the crowds every day by this novel exhibit. How often these words fell on our ear while paying a visit to Madison's magnificent apartment: "The happiest days of our life were spent in a log cabin and it does our hearts good to look upon one once more."

Judging from the display made here, Madison is certainly blessed with an overflow of all the luscious fruits in season, for her wigwam is filled with apples, grapes, peaches, pears and plums skillfully arranged by artistic hands from Madison's beautiful section and, as we look upon this display made by her in the palace of grass, we can look beyond into beautiful brown orchards laden with fruit ready for the fall gathering.

The display of vegetables would surprise the good old James Madison himself could he look upon these products of the soil from the county which bears his name, for they are indeed beautiful.

The grain exhibit is fine and without a rival; corn in the ear and shelled corn in sacks, oats in the stalk and in glass jars, wheat, millet, rye, barley and flax in sacks, open for inspection, all denote luxuriant growth and are pleasing to the eyes of all farmers from other lands. Madison holds the edge on fine grain, while her dairy interests near-by are the subject of much comment by all visitors to the palace. Excellent butter and cheese, two of the leading industries in her regions, are shown here in the finest quality.

Winterset is the county seat of Madison county and is situated on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad; it is one of the oldest towns in the state and was one of the principal stopping-places in the old stage time in southwestern Iowa before her successful introduction to railroads.

Winterset is a flourishing town of about 2,000 inhabitants, all classes of business having been established here which are necessary in supplying the wants of a beautiful surrounding country. Her business blocks are of a substantial nature, while pretty churches and school buildings adorn the city and are a source of pride to her people. Winterset is also a city of

pleasant homes and contains an enterprising and thrifty class of people.

The soil in Madison county is very deep and productive and elegant crops are grown here every year, and for the successful growing of hay and all kinds of grasses known to our latitude she is one of the very best in the boundless west and no country on the continent affords as many natural advantages for the growing of stock as Madison county. There is scarcely a section of land in the county but has a good supply of water, while large quantities of native timber afford plenty of cheap fuel for her inhabitants, which add beauty to her landscapes and are excellent shelter for stock.

Beautiful homes, elegant farms, prosperous towns and villages with excellent railroad facilities make a pretty picture for the traveler passing through this section of country. The climate is all that is desirable, not cold as a rule in winter, while the atmosphere is generally dry and invigorating.

Iowa has a steady and permanent growth and her climate is as flexible and inviting as any in the land. Nearly every farmer in the blue grass regions is a cattle grower; he raises them in his pastures the same as a Kentuckian does in the vicinity of Lexington. They "grow up" with the country and do not need cultivation. A farmer with only forty acres of land has a bunch of steers and like a Kentuckian, "eats steer" and "talks steer" like a veteran. Large shipments of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep are made from this county every year. Southwestern Iowa has become famous as a great stock country and the finest improved stock horses that money can buy, both in draught and roadsters, are found in this section. Thousands of horses are shipped from the blue grass regions every year to the eastern and southern markets.

Southwestern Iowa is recognized by her horses as well as by her cattle. A number of the fast horses in these regions are already making their mark in the annals of the turf and we doubt if any other section of country can show as great a percentage of blooded animals of all kinds. Scrub stock is a curiosity in the blue grass regions. Madison, your excellent exhibit in the blue grass palace has been the means of heralding your name and fame abroad, even in other lands, and the king kindly invites you to come again and share in the feast and festivities in the carnival of 1891. Come forth with your fruits and a portion of your elegant products of the soil, the dairy and estimates of all your yearly shipments, and lastly, don't forget to bring up the old log cabin initiated by the handiwork of a Daniel Boone.

#### ADAIR COUNTY.

Now, readers, let us go forth into the abode of romantic Adair, which cosily nestles between her two sisters, Madison and Cass, while Guthrie kindly looks upon her from the north and another fair sister called Union waits lovingly upon her from the south country.

Adair's bashful charms are enhanced by a thousand natural advantages and the "half has never been told." She is led forth to the blue grass carnival in all the lavish decorations made from the products of a wonderful soil, and the king of the blue grass regions looks upon her with eyes of great favor, and has allowed her the sweet privilege of choosing for herself one of the most convenient locations within this elegant domicile.

Adair is certainly the garden spot of the blue grass regions. Nature has been very lavish in the distribution of her gifts throughout this section of country; lovely brooks and rivers, hills and valleys and beautiful meadows waving with blossoms

greet the eye of the traveler in passing through her section of country.

Adair is noted for her elegant blue grass pasture lands and as having the most fertile soil under the heavens. Field after field of golden grain, whose tints are as mellow as the beautiful azure sky which shines above them, present themselves in due season to the traveler as he passes through her garden of Eden.

What an excellent showing of all these precious gifts Adair is making in the blue grass palace of 1890! The fair ladies of her beautiful section have shown the multitude what they can do in the way of artistic decorations. The ceiling of this booth is decorated with corn, oats, grass and wheat, manipulated with perfect skill, while the side walls are artistic in effect and coloring. A novel centerpiece is formed of a large square covered with all the elegant varieties of grains and grasses grown in Adair county, on which is a horse and sleigh made entirely of the products of her soil. This sleigh is as perfect in form as if manufactured by Beggs Bros. of Creston, Iowa, and contains an occupant made of grasses and grains and different varieties of seeds. Judging by the manner in which he holds his lines, we are led to believe he may be one of Adair's bashful young men driving out for his best girl. A heavy mustache of red corn silk adorns the upper lip of this handsome young "Robin Adair" and the waxed curl which he has given it cannot be duplicated, although many young gentlemen living in these regions have practiced the twirl; but all of no avail.

A beautiful charger made of corn, typical of that raised in Adair county, pulls this sleigh, while the attractive harness is made of plaited blue grass. This pretty picture attracts large crowds to a fine piece of artistic work. We turn from this



unique picture to look upon another equally as inviting, and caps the climax for genuine skill; it is a complete representation of D. Dunlap's elevator at Fontanelle, in this county, and perfect in every detail. This building is constructed of red shelled corn, with white corn trimmings, and the words "D. H. Dunlap's Elevator" run along the side, the letters being formed of white grains of corn; a miniature railroad passes along one side of this pretty elevator, on which a number of cars are standing and are being loaded with corn, wheat, oats, timothy and blue grass seed. What a wonderful advertisement this of Adair's productive soil! What a beautiful display of enterprise and genius! Large crowds linger around it every day, watching the grain pour down the grain spouts into the cars, ready for shipping to the markets of the south and east.

We turn again and we are confronted by an unusually large Newfoundland dog, made entirely of blue grass heads and hitched to a cart constructed of seeds from Adair's romantic section. This cart is occupied by a lovely child, clothed in all the beautiful flowers of the fields, and she holds a pair of lines in her little hands, made of plaited grasses, by which she gracefully guides the noble animal which seems very proud of the honor he bears in waiting upon his little mistress. The most surprising figure in this booth is a horse, life size, made entirely of blue grass heads, true to life as it stands here in all its beauty, seemingly gentle as a lamb, and reined up by a pretty bridle of plaited corn blades. This is another production of Adair's skill and enterprise, demonstrating the fact to all visitors that the horses raised in Adair's section of country are blue grass fed. This horse has attracted thousands of people to romantic Adair's museum. A sheep perfect in form, made of a rich

growth of oat and wheat heads, is another wonderful drawing feature, representing a fine quality of wool.

Blue grass, timothy and red top grow very prolifically in romantic Adair, and the greatest living curiosity in the blue grass region is seen in her booth, a real, live man with a luxuriant growth of blue grass whiskers which the soft winds of Adair have turned to somber brown. Live specimens of "red top" grass are also shown, denoting a growth of over six feet.

Many other pieces of artistic work, manipulated by Adair's fair sons and daughters, are seen in this booth which we cannot describe at this time in this work, so we will pass on to the display of fruits, which are elegant; luscious red and yellow apples, peaches, pears, plums and grapes adorn her tables, while the vegetables are wonderful to look upon; every kind that are known to grow in this latitude are seen here in great profusion. Adair's orchards and gardens are always filled with abundant crops every year, furnishing not only an ample supply for home use, but large quantities are shipped to other markets.

The grain exhibit, both in the stalk and in sacks, open for inspection, denotes a wonderful growth in the soil of romantic Adair, the fertility of which knows no rival, and in the hazy distance we can see fields of golden grain and waving corn yielding rich returns to the farmers of her section every year.

Adair takes great pride in her dairies, and firkins of rich butter and samples of elegant cheese occupy a prominent place in this booth, which tell of fine blue grass pastures and running streams of water, which are very necessary to any country in order to produce milk, butter and cheese, and some of the finest butter placed on the markets of the country comes from Adair county.

A fine quality of brick is shown in this booth from the Fontanelle kiln, excellent for building purposes. Coal has been discovered in this county, but as yet has not been extensively mined. It is a positive fact that thick, rich veins underlie her whole section and the day is not far distant when extensive mines will be opened up throughout the county.

Branches of the Grand river, Middle Nodaway and Middle river all pass through this county, affording an excellent water supply, while the native timber along their banks adds beauty to her landscapes and the valleys furnish excellent pasturage for hundreds of cattle and horses which graze on them the year round in moderate seasons.

Adair has become famous as a great stock country and large shipments of the same are made from this section at all seasons of the year.

Greenfield, Fontanelle, Orient, Spaulding, Cumberland and Messena are the principal towns along the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and Adair and Stuart on the Rock Island.

The lay of the land in this county is the most beautiful in the state, just rolling enough so that crops are not damaged by wet seasons, while the soil is so peculiarly adapted that drouth has little effect.

Greenfield is the county seat of Adair county, situated on the Cumberland branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, or Blue Grass route; it is a pretty village with cosy homes, churches and school buildings; neat business blocks are seen here and all classes of business are established necessary in supplying a wealthy surrounding country.

Fontanelle is a lovely town about seven miles west of Greenfield on the same line of road and is situated on a high

upland looking down on one of the most beautiful and fertile counties on the continent. Numerous branches of business are located here, while her citizens are noted far and wide as an intelligent and enterprising class. Cosy churches and pretty school buildings adorn this place and are a source of pride to her people, whose hospitality is unlimited.

The farmers of Adair are an honest, upright body of zealous workers, who till the soil, raise cattle for the markets, improve their homes and are, of course, a prosperous, happy and contented people. Is it any wonder that a prominent blue grass lawyer from Fontanelle, while proclaiming the great resources of his own county in the beautiful auditorium at the palace of 1890, so far forgot himself and called his county the "state of Adair."

Lovely, romantic Adair! We hope to have the pleasure of meeting you again in the blue grass palace of 1891 and that you will place your exhibit of the wonderful products of your soil in the Iowa exhibit at the world's fair in 1893. The world would like the satisfaction of gazing upon the greatest museum ever produced from the products of the soil, in any country, which only Adair county can make.

#### CASS COUNTY.

Cass, you are lovely to look upon in the blue grass palace and the glorious array of pride and splendor in which you have come up to the palace city is indeed wonderful. Your magnificent caravan is seemingly loaded down to the utmost capacity with all the products of your native county. Your elegant decorations are grand, even beyond description and thousands of admiring eyes are turned toward your lovely apartment in the king's beautifully decorated palace. Three sides of your

elegant booth have been decorated for public gaze, each presenting a charming appearance, while the huge cornucopia of canned goods in the center is a surprise, even to people living in your own county, and when we gaze on the boxes of pure, glossy starch and fine toilet soaps, which surround the canned goods, a hidden secret has been revealed, and thousands of visitors have learned that you are not only rich in agricultural resources, but in thrifty enterprise as well, which Iowa is proud to claim as her own.

The next interesting exhibit is arranged on neat tables, spread with creamy material, consisting of fruits, grasses, grain and vegetables, all products of Cass county. Corn is king, elegant, large, full, rounded ears of which are shown here, which speak volumes for the quality of her soil.

Oats, wheat, barley, rye, millet, flax and broom corn of wonderful growth are displayed, abundant crops of all being raised here every year. The vegetables displayed here are fine and the inhabitants of Cass county need never fear a famine while her soil is so productive and grows such vegetables. Blue grass, timothy and clover seed are shown here in large quantities and as we look upon them we can see beautiful pastures and meadows waving with red and white clover blossoms. The dairy interests of Cass are largely represented in jars of sweet, yellow butter and elegant samples of cheese from her manufactories. Cass is well up to her sister counties in the products of the dairy and shows large estimates of yearly shipments in this very valuable industry.

Atlantic is the county seat of Cass county, situated on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, which passes through the county from east to west, while the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy penetrates the southern portion, affording excellent



transportation and shipping facilities for all her inhabitants. Atlantic is a thorough type of an enterprising western city. Her citizens are chuck full of energy and grit and are hustlers for their city and county. Her merchants are gentlemen of the highest type and know just how to treat their friends and customers and the stranger sojourning from other lands will also meet with the same hospitality as is generally extended to the most distinguished guest.

There is no prettier country in the state of Iowa than is found in Cass county in the blue grass regions. The lay of the land in her section is a glorious sight to behold, while the comfortable homes of her farmers are indicative of enterprise and contentment. Abundant crops and full barns are a source of great pride to her people and Cass possesses every advantage enjoyed only in the best farming regions of the state.

As a stock country Cass cannot be excelled in the west; some of the finest horses, cattle, hogs and sheep in the state are found in her section and large shipments of the same are made at all seasons of the year from Atlantic and Anita on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and from Griswold on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

The valleys of the Nishnabotara river, Indian creek, Seven Mile creek and the Tarkis river abound in the richest blue grass pastures in the world and hundreds of cattle graze in them the year round in moderate seasons, while the streams furnish them an excellent supply of pure water. The banks along these streams are covered with a heavy growth of native timber furnishing cheap fuel for her fires.

All in all, Cass county is one of the most productive in the blue grass regions, while her people are an intelligent and aristocratic class and when the blue grass carnival of 1891 is

thrown open and King Blue Grass is in one of his happiest moods Cass will be seen rolling on toward the palace city of Creston in chariots of gold, loaded down with all the products of a year's labor, which she will place before the king and thousands of people from far-off countries, who will be perfectly enraptured, as it were, with her magnificent decorations.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

Now, reader, we shall in a very short time have completed the great journey of the blue grass regions and palace, and now our eyes rest last, but not least, on Pottawattamie's bower of genius and beauty, which for true elegance is unsurpassed in the palace. She has been most lavish in her decorations in honor of the king of the blue grass regions and has spared no pains to make her exhibit the most worthy yet placed before him. Lovely bouquets of flowers of all shades and colorings occupy prominent positions throughout this booth, sending forth a rich perfume to all passing through her magnificent apartments.

The first object of interest which we look upon in this novel booth is a "blue grass widow," life size, and bedecked in all the gay products of Pottawattamie's soil. Her attitude is a striking one, as she gracefully holds forth on a pedestal of grain and grasses grown in the county, and her smiles are killing from underneath a poke bonnet made of plaited oats, straw and trimmed with all the field flowers it can possibly hold. She has chosen the national flower for her favorite color and she carries a large bouquet of golden rod in her left hand. She is attired in a combination suit of all the different varieties of grasses known in Pottawattamie's fertile section, blue grass predominating largely in the make up. The cut and style of this dress are from the latest French *modiste's décollete en train*

and an elegant necklace of solid grains of red corn adorns her alabaster neck, while the bracelets which clasp her arms are of the same valuable material. This widow is greatly admired by the bachelors and widowers in the blue grass regions, and especially by one who has come up to the palace as her escort and "best fellow," who stands near her with the same graceful attitude that adorns a statue, and the green-eyed monster is plainly visible at times, for his black eyes flash with rage as he notes the many compliments passed on the "widder" by numerous gentlemen while passing through Pottawattamie's beautiful wigwam. This figure is a product of Pottawattamie's fine orchards, having been constructed entirely of those red, luscious and tempting apples which only Pottawattamie can produce. These two figures attract large crowds to Montgomery's elegant booth every day and have been admired by thousands.

In another part of this apartment is a horse, life size, made of small white onions, such as the careful housewife in the blue grass regions pickles in the fall to eat with baked beans during the winter season. This pretty white horse is perfect in form and hitched up to a cart loaded with a large supply of vegetables from Pottawattamie's fertile section, while the harness is an attractive piece of artistic work, being made of specked corn-field beans, or old-fashioned bird eyes. Pottawattamie is noted for quick ideas and projects which are no sooner conceived than put into effect—a fact fully demonstrated in their exhibit in the blue grass palace—and her name has become famous throughout the land. An old gentleman, no doubt with an eye to matrimony, kindly asked the pleasant commissioner in this booth if there were any more of "them widders" in his section of country. To which the commissioner laughingly replied:

"Yes, sir; lots of 'em. We are shipping them out every day by the ton."

While the products of the other two figures are being shipped out every day by the car load and all find excellent markets in the south and east. Long steps are ranged along three sides of this booth covered with delicate cream bunting, on which are displayed an excellent variety of fruits, grains, seeds and vegetables (fine apples especially and an index of Pottawattamie's orchards, which yield thousands of bushels every year) and the small fruits put up in glass jars by her hospitable housewives tell a wonderful story of her prolific berry patches. The grain exhibit from these regions is elegant and a source of pride to her industrious farmers. Corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, millet, flax, broom corn and sorghum denote a fine growth, while corn on the stalk from the Missouri river valley measuring fifteen feet high is of miraculous growth, and the soil in the valley of the Missouri running along the entire western portion of the state has no rival on the continent in the production of corn.

The dairy is largely represented in this booth in butter and cheese of the very finest grade and Pottawattamie reaps large profits from this valuable industry every year.

Council Bluffs is the county seat of Pottawattamie county, situated in the Missouri river valley about four miles east of Omaha and has 30,000 inhabitants; it is one of the oldest towns in Iowa, having been settled as early as the year 1844, has had a steady growth and to-day assumes large proportions. This city has a fine location and contains some very handsome business property, the blocks being mostly built of solid brick, with one of the finest county buildings in the west, having cost the sum of \$80,000. Elegant churches and fine hotels may be

seen on every hand, while the state institution for the deaf and dumb has a handsome location and beautiful grounds near the city. The buildings are commodious and built of brick, equipped with all modern improvements. What an elegant institution the state of Iowa has provided for this class of unfortunates—a model home and every facility for improving the mind and body.

All branches of business are established nere, the trade of which extends over large territories of country both north, south and east of the city. The Council Bluffs Board of Trade came nobly forward in the securing of this elegant display in the blue grass palace and came in a body to visit the great carnival, being highly delighted and royally entertained during their sojourn in the palace city. Much credit is due this excellent organization for the energy displayed by them in the rapid advancement of this city and county; energetic and enterprising, always on the alert for something advantageous to their beautiful city, such as the placing of this excellent exhibit of the products of her soil in the blue grass palace, demonstrates the fact that Council Bluffs is always ahead in every new enterprise calculated to advance her interests.

Pottawattamie is rich in the chief wealth of a nation—agriculture—and no better farming land is found on the continent than her country possesses and her vast area is covered with elegant, cultivated farms. Council Bluffs is the central point of one of the richest farming countries in the Union and her citizens are sanguine of future greatness. The rich valleys of the great Missouri and Nishnabotona rivers, Keg and Silver creeks afford excellent blue grass pasturage for stock, while the streams furnish water all the year round and large quantities of native timber of heavy growth supply her inhabitants with



cheap fuel. Cattle, sheep, hogs and horses grow up with the country in this section, requiring but little feeding. Hundreds of car loads are shipped every year to eastern markets, finding ready sale. The grain, fruit and dairy shipments also foot up large sums, while her railroad facilities are the finest in the west. When we consider that seven trunk lines traverse her section, entering the city of Council Bluffs, and are as follows: The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Chicago, Minneapolis & St. Paul; Chicago & Northwestern; Omaha & St. Louis; Kansas City, St. Jo & Council Bluffs, and Union Pacific; therefore, the manufacturer, the stock grower, the grain merchant, the farmer, the city merchant all have excellent shipping facilities and rapid transportation in Pottawattamie county. When the blue grass palace of 1891 opens to the world in August next a vast multitude will again have the pleasure of viewing Pottawattamie's numerous attractions and even the lords of the British Isles will be pleased with her magnificent appearance.

We have now completed the most romantic journey taken on the continent—through the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa and through the only blue grass palace under the shining sun. What do you think of it? We hope you have been both pleased and highly entertained in making the tour and hope that you may give them a personal visit and inspection in the year 1891. The palace has become a permanent feature in the blue grass regions at the palace city of Creston, Iowa, and will be opened to the world at large on August 19 next. This great industrial exposition will be held in connection with the Creston District Agricultural Fair, which always has wide attractions for all classes. The premium list for 1891 has been revised and in many instances

the premiums now offered are equal to those of the state fair. Ten thousand dollars has been appropriated for the speed department. This of itself warrants the assertion that as fine a field of horses and as grand exhibition of speed will be seen here as can be brought before the public on any fair ground in the great west.

The decorations of the palace this season will far surpass those of former years described in this work and the entire building will be rebuilt and changed, so that those who may have viewed the one of 1890 will scarcely recognize any portion of the same connected with the one of 1891. Many new and attractive features will be added, among which will be a movable panorama, containing 100 pictures of actual scenes located in the blue grass regions.

To all those living in the far east, west, north or south: Do not miss the unequalled opportunity of viewing the grand and artistic beauty of the only blue grass palace under the sun, filled with all the elegant agricultural products of the eighteen counties in the league, wrought in all the many beautiful and esthetic forms pleasing to the eye of the most fastidious persons. All these leading attractions combined with the finest exhibition of stock from this and adjoining states ever seen anywhere in the west and the wonderful contests for premiums in speed ring. You could not select a more beautiful and elaborate exposition and fair to visit this fall, nor a more convenient time, nor meet with a more pleasant, enlightened and hospitable class of people than are found in the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa.

Come all of ye Missourians,  
Ye Kansas folks and all,  
Up to the palace city  
And see the sights this fall.

Come all ye Illinoisans,  
And ye Nebraskans too,  
And from far-off Wisconsin  
And look our palace through.

Come ye from Minnesota,  
With your palace made of ice,  
Come down and try our climate;  
I'm sure you'll think it's nice.

Come all ye eastern people,  
Come from the north and south  
And see our blue grass regions  
Where we never have a drouth.

Come from the far-off Rockies,  
And from California too,  
And from the Alleghanies  
And look our palace through.

Come all ye proud Hawk-Eyeans,  
Our work is nobly done;  
We have three of the greatest palaces  
Under the shining sun.



# THE BURLINGTON ROUTE.





## THE BURLINGTON ROUTE.

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The traveler who rides over the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road from Chicago to Denver sees one of the most beautiful, sublime, fertile and prosperous belts of country traversed by any railroad on the continent. This region has more cultivated country, beautiful and enterprising cities and villages and splendid opportunities for those seeking homes in the great west or for business than that tributary to any other line, for these reasons: The Burlington is pre-eminently the favorite route to and from all eastern points for the tourist or homeseeker, or those contemplating entering on business.

The great World's Fair city, Chicago, situated on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, marks the eastern terminus of this great line of road, having over 1,000,000 inhabitants and covering hundreds of acres of land—over 170 square miles. The public parks alone cover 2,423 acres of land and the city has fifty miles of boulevards and 1,045 miles of streets.

This great city is divided by a river into three divisions, which are legally known as south, west and north divisions; it has 6,731 manufactories, employing 252,280 men, women, boys and girls. Capital invested and employed, \$499,925,000. Annual products and articles produced from wood, metal and other raw materials, \$351,500,000. Thirty elevators furnish a storage capacity of 50,000,000 bushels of grain, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy's Elevator D being the largest. Four

hundred and sixty-three regular passenger and suburban trains arrive and depart daily and it has five handsome union depots and five one-corporation depots.

The city also has 575 miles of street railways and two elevated roads near completion on the south and west sides and 295 miles of beautiful driveways; has 155 hotels, seventeen first-class theaters, five museums and five permanent panoramas, all open the year round. The University of Chicago is the leading educational institution of Illinois, with one of the finest observatories in the United States. St. Ignatius College, the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Northwestern Seminary and Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston are prominent educational institutions. Chicago has 415 churches and an efficient public school system. The Academy of Science, the Chicago Historical Society with its admirable collection of historical works, the Academy of Design, the reading room of the Young Men's Christian Association and other places of similar character are well worth visiting, and the traveler sojourning in the city will learn from seeing them that Chicago is not unmindful of the claims of higher education and higher attainments in the arts and sciences, notwithstanding it is a great commercial mart and enthusiastically devoted to commerce and business. Chicago ranks first commercially in the United States, second in manufactures and second in population and the states most intimately connected with it and whose wants are here principally supplied are Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

We stand amazed at the future which is spread out before this favored city with over 1,000,000 inhabitants and situated at the head of a chain of mighty inland seas, whose waters could float the commerce of a continent and which, by the

Creator, seems evidently designed for a highway along which to distribute the products of an immense region and by which in turn to supply an increasing civilization. Chicago beats the world in the handling of hogs, cattle, grain and lumber. The number of miles of railroad leading into the city from the west alone is 50,000, a number greater than the combined lines of railways in Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

Some people will be surprised to learn that 457 vessels are owned in Chicago, with a tonnage of 67,000, the largest one being the propeller *Peerless* of 913 tons burden, while the elevators of the city would contain the entire wheat crop of 1890.

Last year the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad brought into Chicago nearly 2,000,000 hogs and a greater number of cattle than any other road entering the city. The Burlington handles more live stock than any other railway in the world. And why? Because her system traverses the finest cattle country known to the civilized world.

Chicago is rapidly becoming a great hay market, not far from 100,000 tons having been handled here during the year 1890, at an average of about \$10 a ton.

Nine-tenths of all the lumber arriving in Chicago comes by lake, while the Burlington road takes out of the city more than one-third of all shipments.

Other roads may ship more flour, sheep, wheat and barley, but the Burlington nobly holds the "edge" on corn, oats, cattle, lumber and hogs. Though Iowa is fast changing her politics, she stills leads all other states in cattle, corn and hogs; and Illinois is a good second. Chicago is now one of the most important cheese markets in the world, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin having 2,000 cheese factories, while New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio contain 450. Considerably more than one-

third of all the wheat raised in this country last year was marketed in Chicago and one-tenth of all the hogs in the United States were slaughtered in this city; besides all these numerous advantages Chicago boasts of having the largest union stock yards in the world, where millions upon millions of cattle and hogs are handled annually. Therefore, the largest packing interests of our United States are located in this city, whose shipments reach over the entire globe.

Chicago, the great eastern terminal of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and where her general offices are located, is certainly well chosen wherein to hold the greatest fair the world has ever known in 1893, and the old Burlington will, no doubt, do herself proud in honor of the great event in that year.

The extreme western termini of the Burlington railroad are Denver, Colo., Cheyenne, Wyo., and New Castle, Dak. Denver is the capital of Colorado, in Arapahoe county, and situated on the Platte river at the junction of Cherry creek, 6,000 feet above the level of the sea and thirteen miles from the eastern base of the Rocky mountains, which protect it from the cold winds of winter. The mountains extend both north and south as far as the eye can trace their rugged heights. These highest points, Long's peak to the north and Pike's peak to the south, are in full view, towering far above the tops of the grandest mountains in North America. They raise their snow-clad peaks far above their compeers, rising so proudly and defiantly into the clear blue sky, their gray sides and white crests being visible through the clear atmosphere for many miles. Objects like these are visible for a great distance; indeed, were it so named, those who have never been in these regions would at once deny the statement. Long's



peak to the north is over 14,000 feet above the level of the sea. Gray's peaks, the highest points yet explored in the state, are 14,300 and 14,500 feet high; there are others less high, but none the less grand and majestic.

The Alps, storied monuments of "poetical legendary" fame, cannot compare with these mountains in scenes of sublime beauty and awful grandeur. Here all the vast scene is before you, the pure air bringing the distant mountains within your vision as though anxious that the whole grand beauty of the scene should be visible at one and the same time. The mind drinks in the inspiration of the glorious vision at one draught and, filled with awe, wonder and admiration, the bounding heart almost stands still while the eager eyes gaze on the grandest panorama in nature.

From the top of either of Gray's peaks a morning scene of glorious beauty is unfolded, such as one rarely sees in any clime, for nature in her wildest moods has never excelled her handiwork here, a panoramic view of which now passes before us; travelers from foreign countries tell us that nowhere within the range of European travel can such scenes be found—scenes so full of beauty, sublimity and inspiration. Nowhere on the old continent do we ascend so high; from no point is the view so wide and comprehensive. From Alpine summits the tourist's gaze extends over one pretty province to rest upon another; here the eye fails to reach the extent of even one portion of our country, and the far distant horizon closes in the scene by draping an airy curtain whose fleecy fringes rest on mountain peaks and vast plains in far distant portions of the same fair land. Volumes would not suffice to do justice to this beautiful state, her vast resources, her mines of gold and silver, iron, coal and copper, her rich and fertile valleys, her broad plains

on which roam thousands of cattle, sheep and horses. Her vast agricultural resources, her dense forests, deep canyons and lofty mountains, her genial climate, and wholesouled, hospitable people cannot be described in small space with any degree of accuracy or justice; in fact, they cannot be described at all; they must be seen to be appreciated and the readers of any work pertaining to Colorado must live once among her healthy and hospitable people before he or she can understand them or comprehend their real character.

The climate at Denver is dry and very healthy, the state being unsurpassed in this respect; diseases common in the older states are unknown here; pulmonary complaints are either eradicated from the system of invalids who resort to this country, or the disease becomes modified so that the sufferer enjoys a marked improvement in his condition.

Stock-raising is carried on very extensively in this state, with very flattering results. No state in the union, California excepted, can excel Colorado in the production of vegetables. Owing to the dryness of the black loam irrigation is necessary to secure good crops, for which purpose ditches have been dug from neighboring streams, which afford the water required. These ditches also afford ample water power for mills of various kinds.

Colorado is rich in her precious metals, gold and silver being mined extensively in different parts of the state. Pike's peak became famous in 1859, though it is said that gold was discovered in 1849 along the base of the mountains many miles north and south of Denver.

Coal has been discovered at various points. Many persons estimate the extent of the coal fields at 5,000 square miles. The veins of these mines are from five to nineteen feet thick.

At one point eleven veins overlap each other, showing an aggregate depth of fifty feet of solid coal; it is bituminous and is harder, brighter and less smutty and odorous, burns with a purer flame and leaves less residue than the coal from Iowa and Illinois. Numbers of creeks in these regions abound in trout of the finest quality. The tiniest rivulet swarms with them and their speckled sides glisten in every eddy. They weigh from one-fourth to two pounds and their flesh is as hard as that of the mountain trout in Vermont.

Antelope, elk, black-tailed deer, bear, sage hens and grouse abound in the hills and on the plateaus. The angler, hunter or tourist should never pass through Colorado without pausing long enough to fly a hook and try his rifle. These regions have become a favorite summer resort for travelers, possessing as they do eminent attractions for hunting and fishing.

Denver, the enterprising western terminus of the Burlington is a beautiful city of over 100,000 inhabitants, and an exceedingly interesting city for all travelers to visit, by reason of her rapid and solid growth, her magnificent business blocks, hotels and theaters and handsome church edifices, her extensive industrial establishments and vast commercial movements and shipping relations between the Atlantic and Pacific coast; two of the most beautiful and imposing peaks in America can be seen from the streets of this lovely western city, which marks the western terminus of the far-famed Burlington route.

Cheyenne is the second western terminal point of this road, situated on a broad open plain, while Crow creek winds around on two sides of the city. The elevation is 6,041 feet above the sea; it is 516 miles west of Omaha, Neb., and 1,260 miles from Sacramento, Cal., and 110 miles from Denver. The land rises on one side of the city slightly to the westward, while on

the east it stretches away for miles apparently level. The soil is composed of a gravelly formation with an average loam deposit. The sub-soil shows volcanic matter mixed with marine fossils in large quantities. The streets of the city are broad and laid out at right angles and present a lively business appearance, so the traveler feels that he has arrived at a city of more importance, enterprise and energy than he had calculated on. It contains about 20,000 inhabitants and is the great central distributing point for vast countries in Wyoming.

New Castle is the most northwestern terminus situated in the famous Black Hills, which lie between the north and south forks of the Cheyenne river, which empties its waters into the muddy Missouri above the famous city of Pierre, Dak. The Black Hills district is noted for its rich mineral wealth and is fast becoming an interesting region to the traveler and those seeking homes in the great west.

Among other noted cities on the Burlington route are St. Paul, Minn., and Winona, Minn.; Streator, Peoria, Galesburg and Aurora, Ill.; Dubuque, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Council Bluffs, Ottumwa and Creston, Iowa; Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney, Neb.; LaCrosse and Prairie du Chien, Wis.; Atchison and Leavenworth, Kan.; Kansas City, St. Louis and St. Joseph, Mo., etc.

The agricultural resources of the great, vast region traversed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad throughout the above-mentioned states are the finest yet presented to the gaze of an admiring world in any country under the sun.

Let us first take the state of Illinois, where Aurora, Streator, Princeton, Peoria and Galesburg are situated. All of these lovely cities are surrounded by a most beautiful and fertile country. The farming region in this state cannot be

surpassed on the continent and beautifully presents itself to the eye of the traveler as it stretches away to the north and south, merging into one broad, lovely expanse as the train flies along at seemingly lightning speed.

Corn, oats, wheat, rye and barley are the principal products of the soil in this state, though corn is the principal crop, while all the grains, grasses and fruits known to the latitude grow prolifically here, and by reason of the garden-like productiveness of its soil has attracted a large and intelligent settlement.

Aurora, the first city of interest which the traveler passes through after leaving Chicago, is a beautifully situated city only thirty-seven miles from Chicago and is where some of the principal shops of the great Burlington road are located. A branch line passes from this city south to Streator and one north to Turner and Geneva and on to Rockford.

The next city of interest is Mendota, a city full of enterprise and having a good location; soon we are at Princeton with a lovely country surrounding her and now we roll along and Galesburg is called out next, where a branch runs north to Denrock, connecting with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, which leads out of St. Paul and another branch leads south to Bushnell and Beardstown and on to East St. Louis. The next is Monmouth, city of colleges, and soon we cross the great Father of Waters and as we gaze down into the great liquid depth from the huge iron bridge which spans its course the following beautiful verse comes to us in all its intensity:

Beautiful, proud, majestic Mississippi,  
Parent of great cities,  
Since God created heaven and earth  
Thou hast traversed the deep  
And mingled thy waters with the mighty seas.



From the bridge, too, a magnificent view of the city of Burlington is had, called in pioneer days "Flint Hills," deriving its name from being situated on three high hills, known to the inhabitants of the city as north, south and west hills. The city is beautifully situated on the left bank of the grand old Mississippi and contains over 30,000 inhabitants and the shipments from her numerous manufactories reach over large territories of country. She controls an elegant system of waterworks and an excellent electric arc light plant, while her business blocks are tall, stately and solidly built. Her streets are paved with a durable quality of vitrified brick and granite and the finest street railway system in the state is now in operation and Burlington has at last, after all these years, "put the little mule away." The union depot, on South Main street, is a model structure, built of pressed brick with handsome limestone trimmings and is an ornament to the city and an everlasting credit to the Burlington system.

The business portion of this lovely city lies in the valley, while handsome residences adorn the hills and elegant churches and school buildings are seen on every hand.

This city has large business interests, which extend over the several adjoining states, bringing in large returns.

Although Burlington never has a "boom," she marches on quietly to success and is steadily advancing, reaching out a little further all the time, cautious, but growing richer and richer in her advantages, while the luxuriant country surrounding the city is rich in all the great agricultural resources known to our state. Branch lines of the "Q." run north and south from here, reaching Minneapolis in the north and St. Louis in the south.

West Burlington is a city of itself and has assumed large proportions in the last three years, having been of rapid and

solid growth. The largest and most thoroughly equipped shops of the Burlington system are located here, built of solid brick with strong and durable walls and furnished throughout with all the new improved machinery necessary for the working of all the branches of car and locomotive construction. These shops present a lively scene when about 1,000 sinewy-armed men are busily engaged in repairing and manufacturing cars and engines. The foundry, blacksmith's shop, store rooms, car and paint shops are all commodious buildings and are a credit to the state of Iowa and the Burlington system.

West Burlington is an incorporated village and contains about 3,000 inhabitants, the population being chiefly families connected with the shops. Comfortable churches and school buildings have been erected and we predict a prosperous future for this pretty village.

The next city of interest is Mt. Pleasant, county seat of Henry county, containing about 4,000 inhabitants and situated in the midst of one of the finest agricultural regions of the state and where the handsome State Insane Asylum is located. A north and south branch of the great Burlington road extends out from this lovely city, passing through a rich and fertile country. On we go and soon we enter Jefferson county, whose name and fame ranks high among the ninety and nine in Iowa. Fairfield is the county seat of this county, beautifully situated and a city of pleasant homes, handsome churches, excellent schools and is where Parsons College is located, the leading Presbyterian institution in the state.

Our next stop is at Ottumwa—the "Lowell" of Iowa and metropolis of the coal palace regions—and as we pull into the handsome Burlington depot my mind wanders back to the scene of thirty-four years ago and I find myself drawing comparisons

between the passenger service of then and now. What magnificent changes old father time has wrought in the passenger service of our country in the past twenty years and especially is this fact demonstrated on the Burlington system.

Ottumwa and her surrounding country have been minutely described in another portion of this book, so we proceed to Albia, county seat of Monroe county, where a branch line extends northwest to the state capital city, passing through a beautiful and wealthy country rich in coal and agriculture. Des Moines, the capital of the state of Iowa, has over 65,000 inhabitants and is situated in the fertile valley of the peaceful Des Moines river, almost in the central part of the state. The first object which greets the eye of the traveler as he enters this city is the magnificent dome of the handsome state capitol building. It is a conspicuous landmark indeed, and one of the most sublime designs known to architecture in our United States is Iowa's state capitol, of which she is justly proud.

There is no city in the west which has advanced as rapidly in its growth as this one; her streets are broad and level and lined with elegant and durable buildings. Fine hotels, lovely churches and handsome homes make it also a very fine residence city. A full and complete description of this city is given in the sixth chapter of this book with fine illustrations.

The next place of interest on the main line of the Burlington route is Chariton, county seat of Lucas county; it marks the eastern border of the famous blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa and is also one of the most beautiful and productive in the state.

The Burlington has a branch line running from here to Des Moines via Indianola and one south to St. Joseph, Mo. Chariton is beautifully situated. A full description of the city

and country appears under the head of "Beauties of the Blue Grass Regions."

Onward, westward, and our next halt is at Osceola, county seat of Clarke county, also situated in the great blue grass belt and an exceedingly rich and fertile one.

From Osceola we proceed to Creston, county seat of Union county, the blue grass palace city, which contains over 8,000 inhabitants. This city is situated on the highest crest between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, 190 miles west of Burlington and 110 miles east of Omaha, Neb. There are two branch lines passing from here, one north to Cumberland, in Adair county, and one south to St. Joseph, Mo. A full and complete description of this city and county is given in "Beauties of the Blue Grass Regions."

The next stop is at Corning, county seat of Adams county, one of the richest in agricultural and mineral products in the blue grass regions of Iowa, a description of which appears in another chapter of this book.

Valisca is the next station, situated in Montgomery county, amid one of the finest farming regions of the state.

A branch line runs south from Valisca to Clarinda, county seat of Page county and where the new State Insane Hospital is located. The county is famous also among those comprising the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa, and cannot be surpassed in the raising of fine cattle for the market.

And now we halt at Red Oak, county seat of Montgomery county, containing over 4,000 inhabitants and where the handsome State Sanitarium is located. A branch runs from here north to Ringgold in Cass county, and one south to Shenandoah and Hamburg in Page county, thence to Kansas City, Mo., via the Kansas City, St. Jo. & Council Bluffs rail-

road. Montgomery county is situated in the famous wonderland of southwestern Iowa, a full description of which also appears in "Beauties of the Blue Grass Regions."

Hastings is the next principal station, situated in Mills county, with two branches reaching out over as fine a stock and agricultural region as the sun ever shone on. The south branch runs to Sidney, county seat of Fremont county, while the north branch passes north to Carson in Pottawattamie county.

And now we enter famed "Queen Mills," and soon the porter calls out Glenwood, county seat of Mills county. This county is noted for its elegant fruit farms and embraces a large portion of the southwestern Iowa fruit belt. The state institution for feeble minded children is located here with beautiful grounds and the reader will find a minute description of the county and institution in the third chapter of this book.

Our next place of interest is Council Bluffs, county seat of Pottawattamie county and situated at the foot of the bluffs in the Missouri river valley, and about four miles from Omaha, Neb. This lovely city contains about 25,000 inhabitants. Council Bluffs is one of the oldest towns in the state; as early as 1846 it was known as a Mormon settlement by the name of Kaneshville, which it retained until 1852, when the legislature granted a charter designating the place as the city of Council Bluffs. The explorers, Lewis and Clark, held a council with the Indians here in 1804 and named it Council Bluffs.

Her railroad interests are almost identical with those of Omaha. For a more complete history of this town and county the reader is referred to "Beauties of the Blue Grass Regions." We now cross the muddy Missouri river at Plattsmouth and we are in the state of Nebraska, and on our way to



Omaha, pride of the west. This city is situated on the western bank of the great, deceptive Missouri, on a sloping upland, about fifty feet above high water mark, altitude 360 feet, and is a thrifty and beautiful city of wealth, culture and refinement, containing about 100,000 inhabitants. The state capital was first located here, but was removed to Lincoln in 1868. Omaha, though the first settlement made in Nebraska, is a young city. In 1857 a few squatters settled here. In 1854 the Council Bluffs & Nebraska Ferry Company purchased the land, now occupied by the city, and erected the claim house afterward known as the St. Nicholas; about this time the name of Omaha was given to the place and the town improved steadily until 1859 when it commenced to gain very rapidly, and its growth has been almost unparalleled; there are many evidences of continued prosperity and future greatness. Like Council Bluffs, it has a large area of fertile territory tributary to it, and railroad connections with the east, west, north and south with which to bring wealth to its business firms. South Omaha is a city of itself, and the Union Stock Yards are located here, with the most complete and successful stock exchange in the great west.

We are now well along toward Denver and the Rocky mountains and our first stop is at Ashland, where a branch of the Burlington system extends north to Schuyler, situated on the famous North Platte river; from thence we proceed to Lincoln, the beautiful capital city of the state of Nebraska, into which four branches of the Burlington (aside from the main line) enter. The main branch leads northwest to New Castle, Dak. Another extends out to Columbia via David City, and another to Harrington via Greeley Center to Brewster and Butka.

Lincoln is a lovely, enterprising city of about 50,000 inhabitants, beautifully located and a thorough, wide-awake western city, surrounded by a most fertile and wealthy country. Large railroad shops are located here and the streets lined with elegant blocks, while lovely streets, handsome churches and pretty homes greet the eye on every hand.

From Lincoln we proceed on west to Hastings, Neb., another place where the Burlington has two well-equipped branches of rail. The north branch extends to Aurora, Neb., while the south one passes to Red Cloud and Kearney Junction, on the North Platte river.

The next place of interest is Holdredge, where the Cheyenne extension of the "Q." route branches out to the northwest in Wyoming. We roll on from Holdredge southwest to Oxford, where the Burlington has a main line running to Atchison, Kan., with branches passing south to Concordia, Oberlin and St. Frances.

The next interesting station is Culbertson, where a branch runs northwest connecting with the Cheyenne extension at Holyoke, Neb.

On we go through numerous thrifty villages and fine agricultural regions and soon we pull into the magnificent depot in that far-away beautiful city, the background of which is the most sublime that nature ever created—one which poets cannot describe nor artists sketch. Denver, the metropolis of the middle western country and western terminus of the great Burlington route, is picturesquely situated near the eastern base of the Rocky mountains, the famous backbone of the American continent.

An open, rolling country surrounds this city, being the outer border of that immense plain which stretches away to

the waters of the deceptive Missouri river, 600 miles to the eastward.

The tourist in making this romantic trip over the Burlington from Chicago to Denver may enjoy all the luxuries and comforts of home life by taking passage in a Pullman palace sleeping car. Here he is assured of refreshing sleep in a palace by day as well as by night. Of course, this will add to the expense, but what of it? when we behold these elegant coaches which accompany all through trains, fitted up complete with mattress, pillows, blankets, clean bed linen, elegant curtains and carpets. The toilet rooms are fitted with marble wash-stands, towels, soap and handsome plateglass mirrors, leaving nothing to be furnished by the passenger. Neither is it necessary in the present age to purchase provisions to take along, as excellent meals are served the traveling public right on the train. What a convenience and improvement over the old way!

The traveler going over the Burlington from Chicago to Denver steps up to the ticket office in Chicago and purchases his ticket. He gives his trunk to a baggage-master and gets for it a little piece of metal and sees and cares for it no more. He steps aboard the handsome vestibule passenger train, equipped with Westinghouse automatic air brakes, Janey couplers, Miller platforms—in fact, the very finest-equipped passenger train on the globe; the porter shows him his space in the Pullman car. He takes his seat, pulls off his boots, puts on his slippers, takes out his newspaper and his traveling cares are at an end. Engineers and conductors change and he is passed from one division to another and at night his seat becomes a bed and he sleeps as quietly as if in his own bed at home. He traverses beautiful prairies, passes over lovely brooks and rivers, through forests, down steep hillsides, over broad plains, swiftly

whirling over iron bridges, through beautiful cities and picturesque villages, but he never leaves his parlor. If needs be, his meals are brought to him where he sits and at length, after about twenty-two hours of pleasant traveling, in which he has been in the hands of four different conductors and in the keeping of several engineers, he is set down in the finest depot in Denver.

He looks at the clock in the depot, compares it with the time table in his hands and finds that his journey has been accomplished with all the regularity and punctuality of the sun. His little piece of brass is given to an express agent or a hackman and when he reaches his hotel the trunk which he surrendered in Chicago is in the hall awaiting him.

It seems a very simple business to the traveler, and, if perchance through all this journey, he finds the dinner a little cool, or the conductor on one part of his trip discourteous, or the train stopped at any point in the long ride beyond his expectations, or the arrival at his destination delayed a second beyond the appointed time, he is very apt to grumble inwardly, if not vocally.

How much money has been put into this long line of rail! How much has been lost in unsuccessful experiments! How many sleepless nights have surveyors and contractors spent in providing this marvelous highway! How intricate and involved is the system of co-partnership that is necessary to such a continuous transportation without change of cars! What a gigantic undertaking it is to administer this system with its thousands of employes! How wide-awake the conductor and engineer have been that the traveler may sleep! What dangers they have had to face that he may ride in safety! Of all this he is unconscious if not absolutely ignorant. The management

of such a system as the Burlington in the handling of thousands of trains without clashing or collisions requires executive ability of the very highest order.

If, sir, you think it easy, count up the difficulties you have with your "Irish" gardener in the administration of your country place, then multiply those difficulties by 15,000 and you have solved the problem of an American railroad president.

Aside from the excellent passenger service which the Burlington gives the traveling public is the careful and systematic handling of her freight trains. The freight service is also perfect in every detail and especially has it been demonstrated to the shippers of the east and west. The finest-equipped palace stock cars ever constructed are being placed by the company at the disposal of all who ship stock over her lines, the stock trains making passenger train time; therefore, stock loaded in the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa will reach the Union Stock Yards in Chicago in from eighteen to twenty hours after shipment.

I cannot lay this subject of the Burlington aside, nor consider it finished, until I have paid a tribute to the lives and characters of the faithful employes connected with its system. Composed of as fine a body of men as are found in the train service of any road in America, brave, heroic, intellectual, courteous and kind, hospitable, charitable and liberal toward all with whom they may become associated and always faithful in the discharge of every duty required of them. Passenger and freight trains roll on from one division station to another, through the cold, disagreeable storms of winter and the intense heat of the summer time, within the faithful, cautious keeping of these valued and trusted employes. The conductor walks through his train and looks after the safety and convenience of



the passengers who have been intrusted to his care, affording them all the comforts within his power; he receives his orders, reads them over carefully and governs his train accordingly; wide-awake, his nerves strained for an emergency, should one present itself; his train curves in and out, up hill and down, across babbling brooks and rivers; through forests and wide stretching plains; and at last the train steams into the station, which marks the end of his division; and the great responsibility under which he necessarily has labored during the past fifteen or twenty hours is thrown aside until called again to pass through the same trying ordeal.

Engine driving, every one will agree in truth, is very trying on the mind and no one who has not ridden on the engine of a fast express by night can imagine how trying it is; as a rule, with rare exceptions, the engineers of the Burlington system are a noble, faithful, true body of men, always ready to sacrifice themselves to save their train. The true engineer is a man of ready resources and quick instinct, a man that is stimulated not dazed by emergencies. He stands by his post of duty without flinching, looking ahead; his eyes pierce into the inky darkness of night as his hand holds the throttle, always ready for an emergency, should it come, while the fireman shovels the black diamonds; although the task grows burdensome, for it is a hard one, he is going toward home, and as he realizes this fact he throws the coal with seemingly redoubled energy and he is heard singing that sweet old song so full of love and sung the wide world over, "Home, Sweet Home."

Conductors of freight trains on any road have the most intricate duties to perform in the railway service; therefore, they must be men of large experience and on them depends a large

share of the excellent freight service which the Burlington gives the public along its numerous lines.

And last but not least is the brakeman. Will the world ever condescend to take into consideration and appreciate the very important part which he performs in the railway service, occupying as he does the most dangerous position, though brave and heroic? How many of these noble-hearted fellows have met an untimely death beneath the cruel wheels that speed along over the iron rails; snatched from their post of duty, as suddenly, sometimes, as the lightning flash, and there are always fond hearts, touched by sympathy and love, which go out toward this class of railway employes, who are struggling to climb the ladder, the top of which can only be reached by faithful persistence and honest endeavor.



PART FOUR

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# SOUTHEASTERN IOWA

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A ROMANCE OF THE COAL PALACE REGION AND  
COAL PALACE AT OTTUMWA, IOWA.





## CHAPTER I.

### A ROMANCE OF KING COAL.

Two centuries or more ago, about fifty miles west of where the quiet, picturesque Des Moines river empties its waters into the deep channels of the great Mississippi, in southeastern Iowa, was the scene of many strange and romantic adventures. A number of Indian villages were scattered along the banks of the peaceful Des Moines for miles, which Longfellow describes as the home of Hiawatha, the noble chief of the Ojibways. Moin-gue-na, the name of this village, is suggestive of the name Des Moines and contained in those days more people, a greater number of wigwams, brave warriors, the greatest number of daring hunters and lastly, the most beautiful Indian maidens under the sun.

This village was situated in the midst of a beautiful forest overlooking the river above named and was surrounded by a most luxuriant and fertile country, which gave rich returns to the rude husbandry of the red men. The hillsides and river banks in those days were covered with wild fruits and grapes and the forest and prairie abounded in wild game. Naught disturbed the quiet waters of the peaceful Des Moines save the ripple of a birchen canoe or the dip of the swallow as it skimmed the wave. All nature seemed to lapse in a dreamy repose, while the rich autumnal sunlight threw a mellow hue over the whole scene. The hum of the insect was strangely audible and smoke floated lazily out on the still air from the

numerous wigwams in the village of Moin-gue-na, the home of a savage race of people.

The air is laden with the perfumed leaves of the forest, while the mild winds of the Indian summer dim the landscape with a hazy softness which thickens the blood of the aborigine as he sleeps in his rude wigwam unconscious of the magnificent scenery surrounding him in the beautiful early morning. Scarcely had the rays of the soft, mellow sunlight removed the dews of heaven from the fields and prairies when Hiawatha arose from his bed of deerskins and threw aside the bearskin curtain from in front of his wigwam and slowly advanced down a narrow path leading to the water's side, where he seated himself beneath the spreading branches of a large forest tree. Casting his eyes over the shining waters and surveying the fertile prairies stretching back of the level, he exclaims unto himself: "Our lands are broad and fertile, while our corn is beautiful in the ear and ready for the harvest; our tobacco has never grown so luxuriantly before as we see it to-day; and our forests are full of the bison, red deer and bear. The quail whistles on the prairie and the wild duck rears her brood unscared in the reedy inlet, while the tranquil waters of this river, which flows before the doors of our wigwams, are filled with fish at all seasons of the year.

"Surely the Great Spirit of the universe has been good in the giving of all these multiplied blessings, and still my people are discontented and unhappy. Many days have our hearts been sorrowful. For, lo! in the hazy distance we can see another thrifty and prosperous race of people, who will soon traverse these broad domains and will take possession of the beautiful land which has been our home, lo! these many years. We will be driven to the far west, even beyond the Rocky

mountains, which lie so near sundown. We will be scattered to the four winds and the Great Spirit who smiles on us to-day will turn his face from *my* people to those of the coming race. The arrow and the tomahawk will cease to do their work and the rude wigwam will give place to the elegant home of the pale-face chief. Where our corn and tobacco grow to-day will be seen fields of golden grain and the waving yellow corn of the white man will supplant that which our squaws have grown, lo! these many moons, and the same gentle showers that have watered our fields all these years will sprinkle those of the white race in the years to come.

"These forests will ring with the shrieks of a huge monster on iron wheels, which will slay everything in its path and make the earth resound with thunder and leave in its track streaks of lightning. Great cities will grow up on the banks of this river where I am sitting to-day in the mists of morning. The hum of factories and the noise of mills will silence forever the cry of the wild beast which roams to-day in our forests.

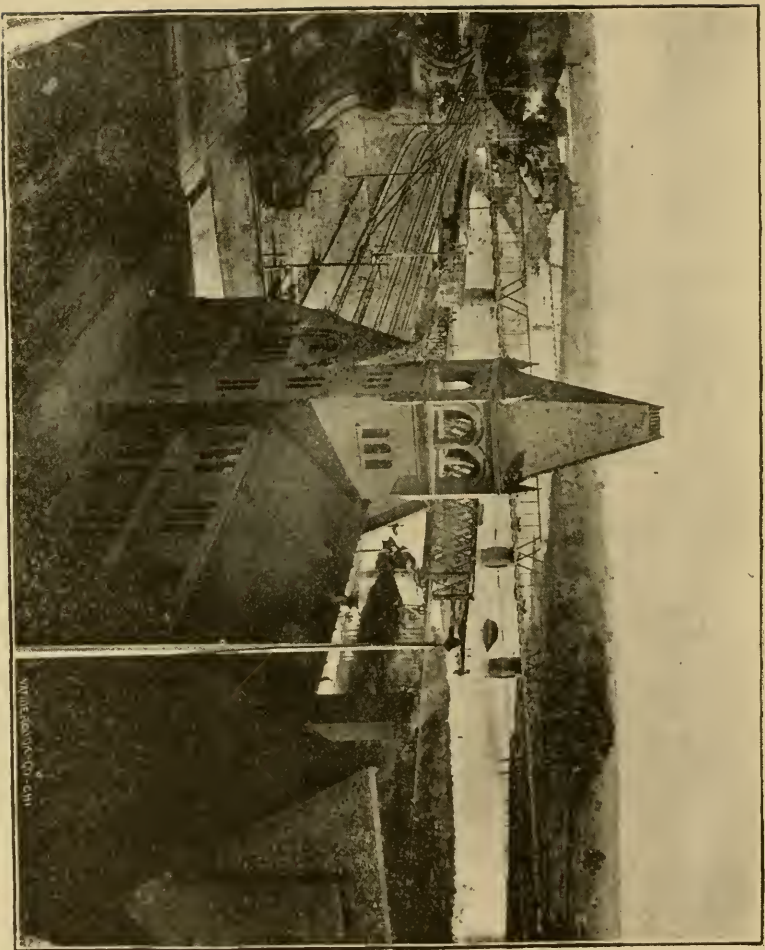
"Hark! I hear a mighty race of people. I can see them coming in the hazy distance and can hear the busy tramp of millions coming to inherit our homes, our lands, our broad, fertile prairies and lovely rivers. All these beautiful things which the Great Spirit has given us will become theirs and we will be driven from our abodes in the forest to become a race of wandering nomads. Through the cold storms of winter and the heat of the summer-time we shall wander from place to place. The earth will become our nightly resting-place and the moon and stars our only covering. Bitter, bitter these facts which I must soon portray to my people," and the great chief bowed his head and melted into tears.

He does not hear the dry leaves rustle in the forest nor see a beautiful, dark-eyed maiden, whose feet skim a narrow, rugged path leading down to the water's side. On her left arm is a basket, for she is the arrow-maker's daughter, Wild Flower, coming forth to greet the morning. Her dark eyes rest on the noble form of the chief as he sits beneath the spreading branches of the tree beside the gentle waters in the early morning. She casts a troubled look about her, for this chief is her lover and she sadly sings and sighs unto herself. "Why, oh, why, these tears! All the air is full of the freshness of morning, our earth is joyous and bright, while above us shine the heavens. Beautiful spreads the river before us. On its margin are lovely forests, while the shadows of the tree-tops are motionless on the waters.

"The blue bird and the robin sing for you and for me and where'er our footsteps wander the meadows wave with blossoms; the woodlands are ringing with music and the trees are turning dark with foliage. Come, Hiawatha," cries the dusky maiden, and the chief slowly arises from his seat on the river bank, and advances toward the Wild Flower of the forest and, taking her hand in his, looks deep into the dark, lustrous eyes and tells her how he loves her and of his morning vision—tells her of the canoes with pinions containing people with white faces—some with beards; saw them coming in wooden vessels from the regions of the morning—from the shining lands of Wabun. Gitche Manito, the mighty, the Great Spirit our Creator, has sent them to us on an errand with a message to my people and wherever they move the honey makers move before them, and wherever they tread beneath their feet springs up a flower, called the white man's blossom. Gitche Manito, the mighty, has told us in this vision to welcome the strangers







VIEW FROM COAL PALACE TOWER.  
DEPOT AND RIVER SCENE.

and give them our heart's right hand of friendship. I beheld, too, in this vision all the secrets of the future and what our distant days shall be. I beheld the westward marches of the unknown crowded nation. All the land was full of people, restless, struggling, toiling, striving, speaking many different tongues, yet one heart beats in all their bosoms. The woodlands rang with their axes and smoke floated out on the air from prosperous towns in all these valleys; over all rivers rushed canoes of thunder. In the hazy distance, in the mists of morning, while sitting on the banks of this same river,

I have seen a great big structure,  
Built of huge, great blocks of coal,  
And its walls are shining, glistening  
As the sun's rays fall upon it—  
Shine like diamonds, shine like dewdrops,  
As the moonlight falls upon it.

Black and mighty are its steeples  
As it looms up in its darkness,  
And the king who reigns within it  
Sprung from out the earth's rich bosom—  
Rich in all his dark, black splendor,  
Rules the people with great wonder.

Makes them rich in golden shekels;  
Builds he homes for rich and poor;  
Built he, too, great iron railroads;  
Put the mighty cars upon them,  
Which seemed floating and then flying  
To the race who rode upon them.

To the busy mills he furnished  
All the fuel for their fires,  
Makes the steam for iron horses,  
Warms the wigwags of the poor man,  
Warms the homes of all the rich men,  
Sending gladness everywhere.

Then the noble chief told the Wild Flower of the forest, the arrow-maker's daughter, of another darker, drearier vision, which he said passed before him clouded in mystery.

He beheld his nations scattered, all forgetful of their councils, weakened and warring with each other. He had seen the remnant of his people sweeping westward, wild and woeful, like the cloud rack of a tempest, like the withered leaves of autumn. "Wild Flower," said the noble chief of the Ojibways, "let us go forth to the village of Moin-gue-na and bid farewell to all our people. Let us tell them that we are going on a long and distant journey, that many moons and many winters will have passed by before we see them again, that the people who shall come from the distant land of Wabun will speak unto them words of wisdom, and they must listen to the truths they will tell them, for the Master of Life has sent them from the land of light and morning," and Hiawatha turned and waved his hand at parting, and on the clear and luminous water he launched his birch canoe for sailing, and with the beautiful Wild Flower of the forest he shot out into the river, whispering to her, "Westward! westward!" and the birch canoe darted forward with great speed.

And in the evening when the sun went down behind the Rocky mountains in the far west, it seemed that the clouds were on fire, so red was the sunset. It burned broad like a prairie fire. There was a long track and trail of splendor reflected on the water as the Indian chief Hiawatha and the forest maiden sailed onward, westward, in their birch canoe, sailed into the fiery sunset, sailed into the purple vapor. sailed into the dusk of evening.

## CHAPTER II.

A number of years ago in September, on the banks of the same quiet, peaceful Des Moines river in southeastern Iowa, where the village of Moin-gue-na stood amid the forest several centuries ago when the great Indian chief Hiawatha had his vision in the mists of morning, was a small village called Ottumwa, named for a savage race of people.

There were only a few scattered cabins on the hillsides and along the river banks, homes of the early settlers, while the surrounding country was dotted with the rude homes of the frontier farmers. On one beautiful September morning all the people from these sparsely settled regions surrounding this village could be seen slowly making their way in old-fashioned lumber wagons through the forests, out over prairies, across babbling brooks and rivers, toward this village. From Missouri's hills and valleys came also a flowing tide of people, with their "whoa! haws!" resounding through the forests, while the blows from the butt of the whip fell on the sides of the patient oxen, as they traveled on toward the village of Ottumwa.

From the valley of the Missouri river, which marked the western boundary of our great state, they came and from the far northwest, to witness scenes which were to be enacted here for the first time, which marked a golden era in the history of Ottumwa and southeast Iowa.

The Burlington & Missouri river railroad had been completed to the village, which marked its western terminus in those

days. The last spikes had been driven and a grand free excursion had been given by the management to the people of south-east Iowa, and the writer, though young in years, was one of the party who took advantage of cheap rates and went through



PRESENT VIEW OF OTTUMWA FROM COAL PALACE TOWER.

from Burlington on the first train that ever carried passengers into Ottumwa.

This train consisted of a long string of flat cars, with a temporary lattice built over each one, and covered with ever-



green and limbs of forest trees, affording an excellent protection from the sun's hot rays. These cars were seated with rough wooden benches and crowded to overflowing. Crowds heralded the coming of the train at every station. Old men and women, young men and maidens, all dressed in holiday attire, were ready to climb aboard this train and enjoy a free ride, perhaps for the first time in their lives, and mingled their voices with those who had screamed themselves hoarse in "hurrahs" for the Burlington & Missouri River railroad.

The village of Ottumwa was astir at an unusually early hour on the morning of which we write, which was such a morning as the one that looked upon the Indian chief Hiawatha in the early morning in these same forests many, many years before. People were rushing hither and thither in their hurried excitement; the woods rang with mirth and music; the fatted ox had been slaughtered, and the beautiful hillsides were being prepared for the great feast and festivities of the occasion. Railroad magnates were to meet with the population of this section of country and sit down together underneath the branches of lofty timber and, like the Indian chief of years gone by, tell of what the future was to bring forth from the regions of the morning. They were united heart and hand in this, the first great enterprise that ever reached their rich and fertile country.

### CHAPTER III.

Speeding along on the iron rails in the hazy distance is a huge monster, which the Indian chief described as floating, sometimes flying, making the earth resound with thunder and leaving in its track streaks of lightning.

Fizzle, fizzle, squeak, ding, dong, rumble, rumble, hurry, skurry, puffing and rolling onward and westward, through forests and over prairies, down steep hillsides and across beautiful creeks and rivers, through the free, romantic, artless country. Our noses scent the incense-laden breath of the forest, whose bashful charms are enhanced by a thin veil of violet haze, whose transparency stimulates the ardent glance of her accepted lover, the sun. The whole party on board this romantic train were as happy as if reclining on spring-cushioned, cut velvet seats, realizing the luxury if not the poetry of motion. The excursionists revelled in the perfumed atmosphere and tender-tinted landscapes, diluted a little and the garishness toned down by dense clouds of tobacco smoke, and expressed their emotions in stenographic phraseology: "Fine day!" "Very!" "Cigar?"—"No, thank you; prefer a pipe." "What's in your basket?"—"Grub." "And in those bottles under the covering?"—"Cold tea and water."—"Ah! how very invigorating and appetizing." As we fly along we see a region teeming with intelligent industry, indicative of material wealth, with here and there a thriving village. We had heard of these things boastfully reiterated and were not disappointed, but we had in

addition what we had never heard talked of: a succession of the most beautiful scenic pictures that ever regaled the eye of an artist or warmed the fancy of a poet; we do not remember to have seen anywhere a panorama superior to the one we saw on our first trip through southeast Iowa on this remarkable excursion day.

As we glide smoothly and rapidly along, it is as enjoyable as a sweet dream to watch how each vanishing picture is replaced by another equally as charming before you have time to regret its passage. As we near our destination, the forests grow more dense, and the hills grow wilder, and the prairies more limited, and the scenery more charming, and soon the jolly, jovial, good-natured, fat-faced conductor, who has tendered more courtesies on this day than most any other man could in a single life, screams: "Ottumwa!" which is echoed through the hills and valleys by a hundred or more voices. Crowds of people swarm along the tracks in this village to greet the excursionists and to gaze for the first time on the one-eyed Cyclop, which speeds on the iron rails, and are wild in exultation and praise of the great Burlington & Missouri River railroad. They view this huge monster in consternation and wonder and a smile of delight is visible on many faces among the amazed crowds, which for the first time look upon a railroad train.

The demonstrations were almost equal to those seen not long since, when the President of the United States visited the enterprising coal palace city.

Where the elegant residence portion of this city stands to-day, on Court hill, were the scenes on this memorable excursion day of an old-fashioned "barbecue". The fatted ox had been well roasted and the delicious flavor of roast beef greeted the

hungry excursionists, and to say that they did it ample justice but vaguely expresses it.

The "old Burlington" did herself proud on this occasion in the spreading of such a luxurious feast before the multitude, who greeted their first entrance to the beautiful Eden of the new world. The introduction was a grand success and will always be remembered by the people of this section of country and by all those who were fortunate enough to participate in the great historical event.

Let us note the progress of this village as it becomes a city and the metropolis of southwest Iowa, and also of her first great railroad, now known to the world as the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

The rise of cities and their surrounding countries forms an interesting element in the history of our state. The advantages of nature and the demands of trade have attracted mankind, and thousands of happy homes have arisen in the city of Ottumwa and country from a wilderness and prairie. The joys and sorrows, the hopes and cares of domestic life flow on alike, whether in the valleys of the great Mississippi, or in those of the Des Moines.

Factories spring up along their banks; the artisan and the merchant seek their daily toil; parents train their children with assiduous care; churches and schools have arisen, and generations labor for themselves and posterity. Great adversities perhaps may fall on the crowded haunt, but years of prosperity succeed and the city expands with redoubled energy, while the river is already the parent of a city. The great Mississippi gave birth to a throng of cities which line its banks, and so has the river Des Moines, and prominent among the enterprising cities of our state is the city of Ottumwa, standing to-

day on the same spot and on the banks of the same peaceful Des Moines, where the village of Moin gue-na stood centuries ago and where the chief Hiawatha made his prophecy of what the future would bring forth from the regions of the morning—a



UNION PASSENGER DEPOT, OTTUMWA.

proud monument of the enterprise and genius of the citizens of southeast Iowa.

Smoke rolls out on the still air from numerous factories, work-shops and mills, regular beehives of industry, and from the homes of over 20,000 people.



It can be safely said that no point west of the anthracite regions of the east offers such inducements to manufacturers as Ottumwa; in fact, the statement can be emphasized and we declare that no point anywhere can possess superior advantages. And this is because having the same natural resources and equal railway facilities, they have the coigne of vantage in being centrally located with reference to the great masses of population.

The wise statesmen of the last generation affirmed 'that here in the center of this great Mississippi valley, midway of the continent, was the future seat of empire. We have already lived to realize that truism.

The manufacturer of the future must be able to supply the consumers direct. His factory must be convenient to his purchasers. The west will no longer pay freight carriage for a thousand miles, where it can make the commodity itself. The plow and reaper and pruning-hook which are to go into these fields must be made here. The miner's pick and drill must be forged near the mine. The carriage for the townsman and the wagon for the farmer will be made out of timber grown upon our own bottom land and not in the forests afar. The clothes we wear, the blankets we sleep under, the knives and forks we eat with, the glassware and crockery upon our tables, all these, and a multitude of other things, we will produce ourselves and not pay the distant manufacturers for. We have coal seams under our feet that will supply our wants for a thousand years and forests of the hardest woods, with clay and sand that are unrivaled, with mighty rivers, nature's free highways, and radiating lines of rails to cheaply bring to us the products of other climes.

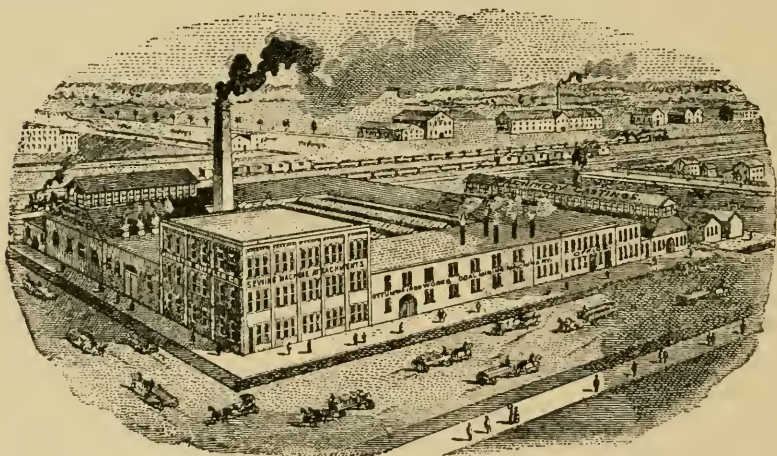
Ottumwa is in the center of the great Des Moines river coal fields, which geologists declare are capable of producing

3,000,000 tons a year for a thousand years. The city is virtually built upon the inexhaustible beds of bituminous fuel laid down in Ottumwa from the adjacent mines; this coal sells at 70 cents a ton for steam purposes. It is proportionately cheap in all the other grades and it is the best bituminous coal mined anywhere. The fact needs to be known to the struggling manufacturer or artisan of the east who, looking into the great west with its promise of inevitable supremacy, longs to cast his lot among its people and plant his capital, his skill, his ingenuity and his energy where they will have just reward.

How true the prophecy of Hiawatha centuries ago of what the future should bring forth to the valley of the Des Moines river in southeast Iowa! and to-day we look upon the great "Lowell" of Iowa, which has been of rapid and solid growth. During the past year she has paved with vitrified brick about two miles of her principal streets and this work, which was done in the most thorough and permanent manner, will be rapidly extended hereafter. This makes the thoroughfares in much of the business portion and the principal residence districts models of their kind and a source of just local pride.

A magnificent system of waterworks covers the entire city, six miles of new mains having been laid during last year. A paid fire department in connection with this system reduces to a minimum the danger of loss by conflagration. The city has three miles of electric railway, on which are operated the finest cars Pullman's great shops turn out. This monumental system practically brings all parts of the city into close community of interest and makes distance no longer a factor to the suburban resident. The old-fogy system of horse cars, with their uncertain time and indifferent service, seems anti-

quoted beside this splendid service, for it is a luxury and not a vexation to travel in elegantly-upholstered, perfectly-heated and brilliantly-lighted cars, which can readily travel at the rate of twenty-two miles an hour on a level. The same enterprising company which operates the electric street car system supplies the city with incandescent and arc electric lights and the general use of these gives the streets, stores and dwellings a cheerful air at night. The most notable achievement of the company, however, is their extensive system of steam supply.



JOHNSON RUFFLER WORKS, OTTUMWA.

Even to many people who reside in our state the diversity of our local products is unknown. In the great Johnson Ruffler works in this city about 550 employes are busy turning out a great variety of metal work, which goes into millions of homes all over the world. In the huge starch works of this city our state's greatest crop is transformed into the fine product which is absorbed in the arts as well as by the housewife's necessities.

In the packing-house of John Morrell & Co. 500 men are busy day by day with the intricate processes by which such a large share of the world's meat supply is produced. Here is a great factory turning out an infinite variety of drills and tools for miners' uses, a factory which, by the merit of its product, has almost eliminated competition.

In another great industrial establishment iron bridges are constructed and these structures, made in forges of our own, span a thousand streams.

Ottumwa has great boiler works, machine shops, linseed oil mills, flouring mills, carriage, cigar, box and wood-working factories in all their varieties. The cutlery works is another large establishment and the goods, having the advantage of exclusive machinery, are of intrinsic merit and command wide sale.

There are a hundred other profitable institutions in which technical skill evolves from the raw material the finished product; for instance, cigars, more of which are made in Ottumwa than in any other city in the west. Great cooperage interests flourish; local houses handle the butter and egg product of the country within 100 miles, etc.; in addition to these interests, which furnish constant and remunerative employment to skilled labor, it is not unimportant to note that the railways centering here employ more than 1,000 men, whose homes are in Ottumwa.

Old Father Time has been lavish in the distribution of his gifts throughout the coal palace city of Ottumwa, the "Lowell" of Iowa, and when we note the great strides which even the old "Burlington & Missouri River" has made since her first introduction to the people of southeast Iowa we are indeed astonished. So elegant has she become in her equipments and



so handsome is the new, commodious brick depot which she occupies in West Ottumwa, with its beautiful trimmings of limestone, that we hardly recognize her as the same in all this magnificent array of splendor.



NEW POSTOFFICE BUILDING, OTTUMWA.

A handsome government postoffice built of brick masonry on a solid stone foundation is an ornament to this city and is one of which all true Ottumwans are justly proud. Commodious brick business blocks have taken the place of frames, and with



wide, paved streets, electric street-cars and large business interests Ottumwa has become the best city in the state. Elegant churches of all denominations, handsome school buildings, with as fine a school system as is found in the great west, beautiful homes and a prosperous and aristocratic class of citizens make her also one of the finest residence cities in the world.

This city is divided by the picturesque Des Moines river, and South Ottumwa is a city by itself, having assumed large proportions within the past six years. A handsome and durable wagon and foot bridge across the river connects the north and south sides. From the handsome, illustrated Christmas number of the Ottumwa *Daily Courier* we take the following:

"The industrial exchange is a vigorous progeny of new commercial life in the coal palace city. It is an association comprising some 125 of the active and influential business men of the city and the work mapped out for itself is to benefit Ottumwa.

"Among the methods for the accomplishment of this purpose will be the judicious advertising of the city abroad throughout the state and nation, correspondence with capitalists and manufacturers with a view to inducing them to locate here, the encouragement of a united local sentiment in business circles and the improvement of the city. 'No bonuses' is the motto of the association. Ottumwa does not have to offer such inducements, because its natural advantages are of themselves so great as to assure the success of almost any well-managed manufacturing enterprise. But it is probable that available sites would be provided for those who desire to plant industrial establishments here.

"It is also the plan of this exchange to hold monthly lunches at one of the hotels, at which a program including addresses

and some subject of current commercial interest will be included. These meetings will draw the merchants together and stimulate them to united action. The list of members is complete and it is a superb company of progressive, intelligent, wide-awake and liberal business men."

The coal palace region of southeast Iowa is of vast extent; it embraces the whole of the southeastern portion of the state and comprises the following counties: Marion, Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, Louisa, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Wapello, Monroe, Davis, Van Buren and Lee.

The climate of this region is peculiarly adapted to vegetation and the country has immense resources of every kind, while in practical skill and sagacity the people are fully competent to use every advantage. In this light she presents herself to the world; in this attitude her people stand toweringly up before the gaze of the nation.

She is a grand example of energy—intellectual, creative, resistless energy. Her pride has been in work; her demonstrations have been work. Labor, as one of the original institutions of God's wisdom, has been certified and confirmed. Her true symbols have been the ax, the pick, the plowshare and the steam engine. She has magnified labor. Psalms of thanksgiving have celebrated her triumph and raptures of imagination have eulogized its wonders. It has been garlanded and crowned. Nowhere else has labor vindicated its intrinsic value on so vast a scale, in such transcendent connections, with such significant fruits; nowhere else has it reached the maximum of its utility and adorned itself with so much of the beauty of a spiritual sentiment.

Coal abounds in rich, thick veins in these regions in great quantities and the products shipped over large territories of

country beyond our state. The homes of its farmers are comfortable and great herds of well-fed stock greet the eye of the traveler in every direction.

Wheat, oats, corn, barley, rye and millet, timothy, blue grass and clover, broom corn and sorghum yield large returns every year and all varieties of garden vegetables grow prolifically in this section of country.



W. T. HARPER'S RESIDENCE, OTTUMWA.

Beautiful rivers, brooks, streams and springs steal their way through all portions of this Eden, affording an excellent supply of pure water, while the drainage is unsurpassed in the state. The climate is all that is desired by those living here and very inviting to all who wish to make their homes in the great west—neither too warm in summer nor too cold in winter. Seldom is there a day too cold for teaming or working in the timber.

In an ordinary season, June, July and August will make a heavy crop of corn and there are usually two months to spare in growing a crop. Market gardeners raise two crops on the same ground in one season of several kinds of vegetables. Everything grown in this latitude has plenty of time for maturing. The average rainfall is abundant for making good crops and the variation is not enough to prevent the farmer from raising a great deal of food, both for man and beast. Every advantage combined with plenty of pure water, abundant timber, loamy soil, cheap fuel and an enterprising, industrious and educated people make a haven of rest for those seeking homes in Iowa. The prairies in these regions are dotted with neat white churches, which indicate a Christian people, while comfortable school-houses greet the eye in every district.

The shipping facilities of this section are equal to any in the west, when we consider that five great trunk lines with numerous branches traverse her broad expanse.

The great number of cars of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep shipped from these regions every year to other markets are astonishing and foot up very large sums of money. There is no country on the continent so well adapted for the raising of stock than the coal palace regions of southeast Iowa, while the dairy product excels that of any other region in the state and the cheese grade equals the best in the world, showing that neither the quality of the blue grass nor the skill of the manufacturer is wanting. In fact, these regions rival Kentucky in fine stock and blue grass western resources for cheese, Pennsylvania for fuel, Illinois for corn, California in the excellence of fruits and are right up in the ranks in all the other temperate zone products of the soil. Her people are cheerful and happy and every year confirms their faith that this is the best country

in the world for the agriculturist, the horticulturist, the coal operator and the grower of stock. Here is a field as rich in opportunities as any region on the face of the globe for manufacturing most of the goods and wares now in use. There could scarcely be a more desirable locality than southeast Iowa with its cheap fuel, cheap provisions and abundant water supply.

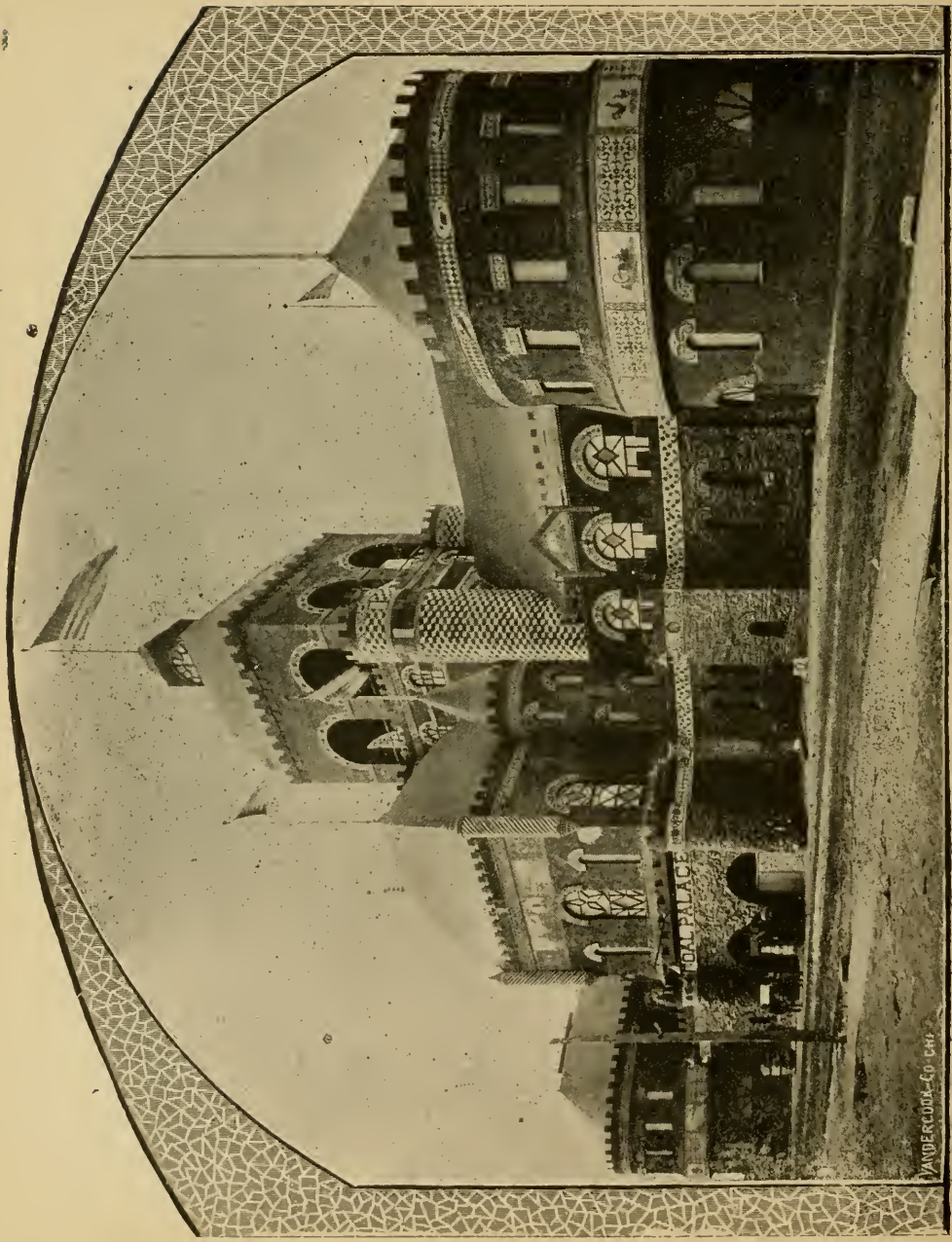
On the banks of this same river  
I behold a mammoth structure,  
Built of huge great blocks of coal.  
All its walls are shining, glistening,  
As the sun's rays fall upon it,  
Shines like diamonds, shines like dewdrops,  
As the moonlight falls upon it.

In the extreme western portion of this city, on the north bank of the peaceful Des Moines river, near the handsome Chicago, Burlington & Quincy depot, stands a magnificent structure, a monument to the genius and industry of the citizens of Ottumwa and her surrounding country, who by their efforts of energy and an earnest determination of will power have shown thousands what they can do as a united city and country.

This very unique black diamond structure cost \$28,000 which was raised by private subscription among the enterprising citizens of this city, who are a free, generous and liberal-minded body of men, not afraid to venture into anything that looks to the advancement of their city and country. Their silver and gold do not lie idle in the musty vaults of banks and they are always on the alert, ready to grasp an enterprise such as the coal palace has demonstrated with rich returns.

Thousands have come and gone and have left gratifying words of praise for the Coal Palace Association and the city of Ottumwa who so nobly entertained them during their sojourn in the city. Ottumwa has been well advertised all over the United States and will next year present the people with a far





OTTUMWA COAL PALACE.

more elaborate display of enterprise and genius than that of this year, if such a thing is possible. It is indeed a massive building in architecture, design and finish, the central tower being nearly 200 feet high, with ornamental turrets 266 feet long and 126 feet wide. The efficient officers and members of the Coal Palace Association are men of indomitable energy and push and to them we may ascribe a great deal of credit for the erection of this magnificent structure and as having the very finest coal palace and industrial exhibit under the sun.

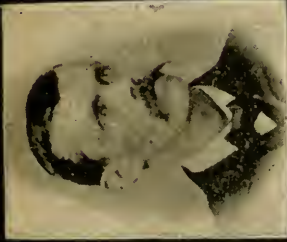
The president of the Coal Palace Association of 1890 is none other than Col. P. G. Ballingall, so well and favorably known throughout our state, whose name has been closely identified with the interests of this city for many years. Col. Ballingall is a man of large heart, kind, hospitable, charitable and liberal in everything, and noted among the people of Iowa as the great traveler, having not long since made a trip around the world, and has visited all places of interest in our own and in foreign countries and has recently departed to the land of Corea, which lies off the southeast coast of Asia, to spend a few months of recreation and pleasure. No doubt but that many times during his absence in that country his mind will wander to his far-away home in the United States of America, and to the city of his long home in the coal palace regions of southeastern Iowa, his "ain countree." When in the midst of solitude his mind's eye reflects on the Black Diamond structure, his heart will yield to his home and city along the banks of the peaceful Des Moines, where the Indian chief Hiawatha had his vision in the early morn many, many years ago. Colonel, you have not only won proud distinction, but national fame, by the excellent manner in which you entertained the President of the United States at the coal palace at Ottumwa in 1890.

The next officer of the Coal Palace Association is Col. Sam Flagler, the vice-president. Mr. Flagler is a man who needs no introduction to the people of Iowa. He has been a long resident of the state and of the city of Ottumwa and his friends are legion. His close identity with the coal interests of the state these many years has won for him both fame and distinction, not only in his own home city, but in all parts of the country. Mr. Flagler is largely interested in the Flagler mines in Marion county, this state, which are very successfully operated, and the quiet, graceful manner in which he performed his duties of officer in the Coal Palace Association and the zealous work put forth by him during the building of the palace and also throughout the magnificent industrial exhibit prove that this association was very wise in the selection of S. A. Flagler for their vice-president.

Calvin Manning, the very courteous and gentlemanly secretary and treasurer of the Coal Palace Association, is wide and favorably known to the citizens of southern Iowa; a most talented lawyer and speaker, whose fame ranks high among the noted lawyers who compose the Iowa bar; a man of wonderful versatility and fine powers as an orator, who has done much toward the upbuilding of his city and country. His efforts of genius were clearly demonstrated by the excellent judgment displayed in the handling of all business connected with the Coal Palace Association of 1890, and many of the laurels which crowned its success rest greatly on the most distinguished lawyer of southeastern Iowa.

Now, reader, have you made up your mind to accompany me on another long and interesting journey? This time it will be through the coal palace regions and palace of southeastern Iowa, a romantic trip through the famous black diamond struct-





OFFICERS OF THE COAL PALACE ASSOCIATION.

ure. We feel quite sure that you will be both delighted and interested in the most sublime trip and novel sights ever witnessed by people in any country.

#### A PANORAMA OF THE COAL PALACE.

On entering this magnificent structure one is perfectly amazed by the dazzling beauty of the interior decorations, language being inadequate for the occasion. The immense size of the building and novel decorations are a revelation. The pillars and walls, railings and balustrades, rafters and ceilings, are entirely hidden from view by exquisite arrangements of corn-husks and grain, whole ears of corn split, sawed lengthwise, and grains of corn, red and white shelled corn, blue squaw corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, millet, blue grass, timothy, clover, red pop, feather grass, corn stalks, stalks of wheat, flax and buck-wheat, all manipulated and arranged by the skillful hands of numerous artists, making the whole one solid bower of regal beauty and splendor. One hardly knows whether he is, in reality, awake or dreaming, so wonderful and marvelous are the interior decorations of the coal palace of 1890.

The distant dome above has the appearance of an inverted wheat field whose golden grain is ready for the harvest. Conspicuous from the auditorium are two beautiful pieces of decorative art. One is that of a large American eagle directly above the stage, made entirely of grains of corn in the natural color. Seemingly he has taken his flight from the scenes below and has perched himself on a distant mountain, where he exultingly looks down on a sea of happy human beings.

On the right, high up in the open court, is seen a beautiful American flag; the folds seemingly have fallen gracefully after the battle has ended, suggestive of many hearts and homes



made desolate. These two elegant pieces of work are greatly admired by every person who gazes upon them.

A large number of other similar designs occupy very prominent positions and are composed of the different varieties of grasses and grains herein mentioned; all the exquisite shades of bunting, from somber black to the creamiest of tints, are used very profusely in the ceiling decorations, and in all the numerous exhibits, which have the appearance of rich, shining satins, puffed and gathered into all the novel shapes imaginable. "How astonishing!" we hear them exclaim, as they gaze on the wonderful possibilities of decorative triumph, of the every-day articles of life, fruits, vegetables, grasses and grains, all arranged by skillful and artistic hands. The whole building is thoroughly occupied with almost every beautiful thing under the sun and excels all other industrial and novel expositions in Iowa this year, both in variety and interest. There are thirteen counties in the coal palace regions, nine of which are represented on the lower floor of the palace with an excellent exhibit from the eighteen in the blue grass regions of southwestern Iowa, while the mechanical exhibit occupies large space on the lower floor on the west side. John Morrell & Co.'s pork-packing establishment of this city occupies large space in the extreme east portion of the building and F. M. Sinclair & Co. of Cedar Rapids occupy an elegant booth in the southeast corner with a handsome display of their pork-packing industry. It seems that each has tried to make his exhibit the most attractive, and the result may be imagined. The central portion of the lower floor is occupied by a large stage and auditorium which will seat comfortably 2,000 people and back of this stage is where Niagara Falls is represented in all its magnificent grandeur.

Rushing and roaring, fumeing and splashing,  
Hurrying and scurrying, clashing and dashing,  
Listening and glistening, shining and pining,  
Falling and sprawling, roaring and soaring,

Twinkling and sprinkling, illustrative of the waters of Lodore. Calcium lights from behind throw a rainbow into the falls, the effect of which is very beautiful indeed. A vast multitude have looked upon this scene, which is so real that one almost imagines oneself in the very face of Niagara. This waterfall performs at intervals of fifteen minutes during the day and evening.

Each evening brought its attractions, concerts, speeches, theatricals and toasts, but the great presidential hand-shake on the evening of October 14 was the grand triumphal epoch of the entire evening's performances. The gallery floor contains the great Northern Pacific railroad exhibit. The Ottumwa *Daily Courier* office, the Pi Beta Phi society and a number of prominent business firms of the city are represented by fine exhibits. The Des Moines plating works also have an elegant display of their goods on this floor, while Dr. Lathrop's cabinet of ancient relics draws large crowds every day.

#### BLUE GRASS REGION EXHIBIT.

We will now commence the interesting tour of the finest coal palace in the world. Starting on the lower floor, our eyes rest first on the blue grass region exhibit, which we will describe. This beautiful and novel display, which is situated in the extreme southern portion of the building, on the right of the stage and waterfall, comprises specimens from the eighteen counties of southwestern Iowa and was placed in the coal palace by the Blue Grass League of that section of country, and they certainly have fully succeeded in making theirs one of the drawing features of this great enterprise. The league

appointed a commissioner to take charge of the exhibit from the opening until the closing of the great exposition, and were wise in their choice, for he stood bravely at his post of duty day after day in honor of the great regions he represented. October 14, when the President of the United States passed through the palace, admiring the exhibits, he seemed greatly pleased with the circulars handed him by the pleasant commissioner of the blue grass regions. The blue grass wagon, which appeared in the presidential parade, was decorated by this commissioner and two able assistants with the products of their own country and was greatly admired by the people along the line of march, and, aside from President Harrison himself, attracted more attention than any other feature in the parade. In the ceiling of this booth is a large star which forms a central piece, made entirely of blue grass, with a handsome background, with frieze and border of other grains, representing the star country of Iowa; back of this is a panel made of corn-husks, in the center of which is shown the national colors with a choice bunch of corn for a center-piece, while the panel is fringed with corn tassels. The effect of this decoration is admirable and elicits hearty expressions from all visitors. A post in the center of the booth forms a foundation for an elaborate pillar of grasses, at the top of which is a fine pair of Elk antlers, made of ears of corn; surrounding this pillar is a pyramid on which are exhibited an excellent variety of fruits that abound in these regions, with a large supply of vegetables; on either side of the post hang two large bells, made of blue grass, one with a clapper of corn and the other of squash. As we proceed on our journey, the interest increases in the banner county of southwestern Iowa, not only in its numerous fruits, but in all the varieties of vegetables, grasses and grain. On

the rear wall is a large flag, perfect in form and colors, made entirely of corn-husks by the ladies of Osceola, Clark county, and first placed on exhibition in the blue grass palace at Creston, Iowa, where it was seen and admired by Gov. Horace Boies; it was taken by his request to the state fair at Des Moines and from thence to the Ottumwa coal palace, having attracted wide attention; it rests peacefully in the blue grass region exhibit upon a background of oats, while above is the sign in large letters "Iowa Blue Grass Region Palace Exhibit." On either side of this flag are two very unique decorations—one the picture of a horse, in life size, made of clover blossoms and the other a picture of a fine Holstein animal, also life size, made of seeds. A beautiful bale of blue grass occupies a prominent place in the front part of the booth and is the only one in the palace. The shorthorn cow, life size, made entirely of blue grass heads, attracts more attention than I could tell in a large volume. She has been quietly grazing here almost three weeks in a veritable blue grass pasture, tied to a blue grass post by a blue grass rope in the most real kind of reality. She seems very gentle; therefore, we can hardly account for the milk pail being turned over and the milk being spilled on the grass. The milkmaid's stool lies idly by, while a little lamb may be seen near-by sleeping in the same pasture, no doubt dreaming of sports on the beautiful blue grass pastures in his own country. All that is necessary to complete this scene would be a pretty milkmaid from the blue grass regions to occupy the stool. It is a picture for an artist and one greatly admired by many thousand people passing through the palace, and the questions asked by them of the commissioner concerning this cow and pasture and the blue grass regions would make a book. Adjoining the pasture are seen samples of their dairy

products in firkins of rich, yellow butter and splendid samples of cheese, for which the blue grass section is famous.

Prominent in front, pinned to a blue grass star, is a large photograph of the blue grass palace at Creston, Iowa, which we have described in full in another portion of this book. Many questions were asked concerning it and particularly the time of opening this year, many expressing a desire to attend. One of the handsomest single pieces of limestone shown in the building is a representation of a large tree devoid of limbs and branches and was chiseled from the solid rock by Shaffer Bros. of Corn-ing, Iowa, and is very expressive in telling the wealth of that section in building material. These quarries are also mentioned in the blue grass palace story.

The display of corn is very fine in this booth; it is piled on the floor in one corner, representing an old-fashioned husking bee of the night before and the "fateful" red ears are numerous, giving indications of the jolliest of parties. There are shown fifty sacks of small grains from these regions in all their varieties. The displays of native woods are original in design and very fine, especially one collection made by a student of Tabor College, in Fremont county, which shows seventy varieties. Another display is of sections of large timber, arranged in two imposing pyramids, while the exhibit itself is fenced on one side with a rustic fence, constructed of eighty different kinds of wood. Here are seen immense blocks of coal, indicative of her resources in this respect. The display of vegetables is very fine. Even the Israelites on their trip of exploration to the land of Canaan never found better—the cabbages, twenty varieties of squashes and pumpkins, beets, melons, egg plants, peppers, carrots, parsnips, onions and potatoes. There will never be a famine so long as there is a blue grass region in southwestern



Iowa. The draperies which hang in front of this excellent exhibit are made of corn and beans strung and crossed, forming diamonds and are gracefully drawn aside with loops of blue grass with very pretty effect. All in all, the blue grass region exhibit is a very beautiful and interesting one. All honor, profit and praise to the Blue Grass League, the committee who placed it on exhibition in the coal palace and the accomplished commissioner or those who may have assisted in any way in the placing of this wonderful drawing-card in the coal palace of 1890.

Kind reader, we will now survey the coal palace regions of southeastern Iowa, comprising thirteen of Iowa's most beautiful counties, which are as follows: Van Buren, Wapello, Davis, Marion, Jefferson, Mahaska, Monroe, Keokuk, Henry, Des Moines, Louisa and Lee, which lie principally in the fertile valleys of the Des Moines river. This exhibit occupies large space in the great structure and each county has a separate booth in which to make its display.

#### WAPELLO COUNTY.

Our first visit is to Wapello county, the home of the black diamond palace. The commissioners in this booth take great pains to give all visitors a history of this beautiful, fertile country. The first object of interest which attracts our attention is the tempting display of canned fruits put up in glass jars by Wapello's most excellent housewives. They are, in fact, the most delicious that we have ever seen and the greatest variety of peaches, pears, grapes, cherries, quinces, apples, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries; in fact, all the fruits known to the horticulturist in this climate. Two large squares form the central pieces in this booth, which form the foundation

for the fruits, vegetables, grasses and grains, and display decorative work for an artist; directly over the first square is an arch, on which the name "Wapello" is written in seeds, on a background of coal, while the word "county" over the second one is made of corn on a background of the same material. These center pieces are almost hidden from view by an elegant display of all fruits in season and garden vegetables manipulated with lovely bouquets of flowers, grasses and grains; the effect is most charming indeed. This booth is directly opposite the blue grass region exhibit and first to the right of the auditorium. If the blue grass cow had been raised in Creston she would have long ago opened the gates leading into Wapello's elegant hanging gardens and feasted on all the good things from her section of country; being raised on blue grass pastures in the free, romantic, artless country, she is not up to the tricks of her sisters raised in "cow ordinance" cities. The words "coal palace," made from the limbs of a crab-apple tree in the natural growth, occupy a prominent place and are very rustic in appearance; they are looked upon with wonder and admiration, while we see the words underneath, "Wapello county," which are formed of thirty-three pieces of wood, all native to the county, showing the effects after being polished; a miniature cord of wood and pile of lumber are prominent and attractive pieces of handiwork and are constructed of wood native to the county. The display of hydraulic cement stone from this county and of an excellent quality of brick manufactured at Eldon and Ottumwa are two interesting exhibits, indicative of cheap building material. An excellent quality of coal is shown in this booth, both for steam and domestic purposes, and taken from mines within one mile of the city of Ottumwa. Coal is so abundant in the coal palace region that nearly every farmer

has a coal mine of his own within the compass of his farm. The displays of grains and seeds in glass jars are a thing of beauty and a joy forever to the hearts of Wapello county farmers; by these he counts the golden sheckels. The linseed oil mills of the city of Ottumwa have a fine display of enterprise in this booth, showing an excellent quality of oil and oil cake. Several different kinds of sands are shown in glass jars from Wapello's section of country, and are a surprise; the numerous colors of the sand blend as beautifully together in these jars as do the colors of the rainbow. Several roller process mills are represented here with fine grades of flour, showing forth a great industry in this respect in these regions. Wapello county is to be complimented on her great wealth and industries and the great abundance of coal, stone, sand and wood. There are twenty coal mines in Wapello county, all working in the lower coal measures, the vein being from four to six feet thick. The largest mines are located at Kirksville, on the Ottumwa & Kirksville railroad; they have excellent facilities for shipping coal and are operated by the Wapello Coal Company. Their No. 1 slope is the second largest mine in the district and produces the largest amount of coal with one exception. The next largest mines are Philips' mine, near Ottumwa, on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and the Eldon mine No. 1, on the southern branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad; both have railroad facilities for shipping coal. There are also several local mines in the vicinity of Ottumwa that do a good local business in the winter. The Wapello Coal Company has opened a new slope mine on the Ottumwa & Kirksville railroad. The Hawkeye Coal Company of Ottumwa has opened a new shaft mine, one and one-half miles north of Ottumwa, on the Chicago, Milwaukee

& St. Paul railroad, which largely increases the production in this county.

The Des Moines river runs diagonally through the county and has cut many channels through the stratas. The deepest shaft in the county does not exceed 100 feet and in many places the coal lies near the surface. This county has excellent railroad facilities for shipping coal in any direction. It produced, in 1886, 237, 111 tons; in 1887, produced 272,073 tons, showing an increase of 34,962 tons. All the mines are preparing to increase the future output.

Wapello county also boasts of having the finest and greatest number of cattle of any county in the state and her dairy shipments the largest. Blue grass abounds in the fertile valleys of the Des Moines river and its tributaries, affording excellent pasturage for cattle.

Centuries ago the fertile soil of this section gave rich returns to the red men and it never wears out. How true the prophecy of the Indian chief in these valleys hundreds of years ago! Her resources become richer every day; excellent corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, millet, flax, sorghum, anything which grows in the latitude, can be grown successfully in Wapello county soil, elegant samples of the same being shown in the exhibit in the coal palace. Ottumwa is the county seat and boasts of having the only coal palace under the sun.

#### VAN BUREN COUNTY.

Bidding the pleasant commissioners in the Wapello county exhibit a kind adieu until 1891, we turn our thoughts and attentions for awhile to old Van Buren's display of enterprise and genius. We are received in warm welcome by the commissioner of this booth, who is one of the shining stars of the

Keosauqua, Iowa, bar. Who has not heard of Martin Van Buren and of Van Buren county, Iowa? which lies along the banks of the picturesque Des Moines river, about forty miles below Ottumwa and in the extreme southern tier of counties, joining corners with Wapello on the southeast, a country rich in agricultural and mineral products, one of the richest in the galaxy of the ninety and nine in Iowa. Rich in timber, in coal, in building material, in bountiful crops and in live stock. Noted for the fertility of its soil, its blue grass pastures, meadows of timothy and clover, fruits and vegetables, its woolen mills, its stone and marble, its orchards and prolific berry patches, fine horses, fine cattle, fine farms, industrious farmers, hospitable families and the most beautiful maidens in the state of Iowa, its prosperous villages, schools and churches and great numbers of noted men and women.

The exhibit which old Van Buren has placed in the coal palace is a pretty one, rich in all the products of a beautiful and fertile country, artistically arranged, occupying a fine location immediately east of the blue grass region exhibit in the southeast portion of the building. First we notice a beautiful panel above the chief pyramid, in which are two large cornucopias wrought of Van Buren county grasses, which fill the large diamond and are surrounded by various colored buntings. In the front of the space is a large triangular-shaped pyramid with four rows of steps. A huge pumpkin weighing 125 pounds forms the corner piece of the first tier, which is filled with a beautiful assortment of apples with vegetables on either side, while large bouquets of choice flowers form a conspicuous feature in the entire decorations.

A veritable "garden patch" of fine vegetables is shown here. All that is necessary for the completion of the same is



the hoe and rake and a few of Van Buren's hustling farmers to dig them out. All kinds grown in this latitude are seen here fully matured and greatly admired by all visitors. Van Buren makes a specialty of fine apples and this display is a most excellent one, luscious and tempting to the appetites of those who have come from fruitless regions. A long row of glass bottles stand on the shelves, which contain all the different varieties of grain grown in the county, each denoting a most luxuriant growth. Fine samples of clover and timothy seed are also shown and are among the chief products of her section of country. Back of this pyramid is another against the wall and contains another beautiful exhibit representing forty-nine different varieties of wood native to Van Buren county. On the right of this are the coal, marble, limestone, sandstone and potter's clay, all very abundant in the county. On the left are elegant displays from her woolen mills at Bonaparte and Sterling, which are very fine indeed, consisting of blankets, yarns and ready-made clothing, the cloth being manufactured at these mills. Near this display are seen an excellent quality of cheese and jars of pure sweet butter, which tell a wonderful story of Van Buren's dairy interests. The background of this booth is formed of grain in the stalk grown in the county, corn predominating largely in the make up. The large pyramid in front is surrounded by a huge cone of corn in the ear, ears of corn strung and pendent at various points, making Van Buren's wigwam one of the handsomest in the palace.

Van Buren claims to be one of the best grazing countries in the world. Blue grass and white clover are especially abundant and hence we may expect that she would abound in cattle and horses. She also takes the leadership in the raising of fall wheat, the crop last year averaging forty bushels to the acre.

Corn grows luxuriantly in her valleys, averaging ordinarily sixty-two bushels to the acre. The meadows are fertile in timothy. White oats yield large returns. The timber is very heavy in this section, especially along the banks of the Des Moines river, and maple groves are also plentiful. Her quarries of fine building stone in all the varieties, particularly magnesian limestone, sandstone and gray marble, are being quarried and shipped to all parts of the country. The Chequest gray marble, the stone furnished for the Washington monument from Iowa, was taken from these quarries in this county. The material furnishes many of the handsomest tombstones in the country.

A manufacturing interest, besides the ones already mentioned, is the L. Burg Wagon & Carriage factory at Farmington; two cheese factories are also at the same place. Potteries are located at Birmingham, Vernon and Bonaparte, all using the potter's clay in their own county. These factories are all supplied with cheap fuel, as abundance of timber and fifteen extensive coal mines furnish an ample supply for all factories and numerous inhabitants. This county was settled early by excellent families from the middle states, all native Americans, who took an early interest in educational matters and special pride in their schools; as a result, Van Buren has produced men of national fame.

Keosauqua is the county seat of Van Buren and is a most beautifully located town on the banks of the peaceful Des Moines river and is one of the old landmarks. All classes of business are represented here necessary to supply the wants of a large country tributary and her buildings are neat and commodious, being built wholly of brick. Her people are an educated and aristocratic class and take great pride in their schools and churches and the country surrounding her is filled with an ener-

getic and prosperous class of farmers. About forty-five miles of the Des Moines river passes through the county which has five wagon bridges and one railroad bridge across the same, all substantial iron bridges.

Van Buren, you have done yourself proud in making one of the finest exhibits in the coal palace and we hope to meet you again in the coal palace of 1891.

#### DAVIS COUNTY.

We will introduce the reader now to Davis county, which has gained a most wonderful exhibit for the industrial exposition of 1890. We find a very pleasant and agreeable gentleman acting as commissioner in this booth; having long been a resident of Davis county, he knows whereof he speaks as he explains the great resources of his own country. The decorations here are entirely of the products of the soil and are beautiful in the extreme. The center of the booth contains a large pyramid of shelving on which have been placed all the beautiful fruits in season, vegetables above the average and all the grasses and grains which abound in the county. The manufacturing industries of her section are also largely represented, cheese from the Pulaski cheese factories being as fine as any we have ever had the pleasure of sampling. We notice an elaborate display of flour in different grades and brands, full roller process, from numerous mills in Davis county. One part of this booth contains some very interesting ancient relics; one is an old book containing a history of Europe, Asia and Africa, published in the year 1761, and a German prayer-book published in 1766—very interesting, indeed, to those who love to dwell on ancient ideas. The most important among these relics is an old gun which has a remarkable history indeed, one well worthy of

notice. It was carried by a German soldier during the invasion of Russia in the year 1812, and the same soldier carried the same gun through the invasion of France in the year 1814; it was also carried under Napoleon Bonaparte in the battle of Waterloo, June 18, 1815. Two brass candlesticks, over 200 years old, stand side by side, while a pair of iron snuffers lies close by, equally as ancient. Whose mantel they may have adorned in the years of the long ago we did not learn, but the light from their tallow candles may have reflected its rays on the forms of Romeo and Juliet; who knows? A number of Indian relics are shown here, tomahawks, arrows, calumet peace pipes and a large quantity of furs tanned by Indians, moc-casins, beads and all implements of war. Davis county, with all her rich products of soil, has also a history in connection with these ancient relics.

Davis county is situated in the extreme southern tier of counties, immediately south of Wapello, and west of Van Buren; it is third from the Mississippi river, joining lands with Appa-noose on the west, which belongs to the blue grass regions and is noted for the fertility of its soil, which is rich and loamy, yielding abundant harvests every year; it is also noted as having excellent coal mines, affording cheap fuel for its inhabitants. Cattle, horses, hogs and sheep are abundant in this county, while the blue grass pasturage along the valleys of the numerous creeks and rivers are the finest grazing lands in the world. Large shipments of stock are made from this section and the dairy interests rank with any in the state.

Bloomfield is the county seat of Davis, on the Chicago, Burlington & Kansas City and Wabash & St. Louis railroads, both traversing the country from east to west, while the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific passes through the northern por-

tion, affording excellent shipping facilities. The people in Davis county are a prosperous, educated and happy race, who till the soil, raise stock for the markets, improve their homes and take great pride in their schools and churches.

Bloomfield is prettily situated and full of enterprise and contains a splendid class of citizens. Her schools and churches will compare favorably with those in other towns of her size in the state and the business blocks are neat and comfortable buildings. All classes of business necessary in supplying the wants of a large country are represented here. Prominent in this booth is seen a card which names this county "the finest blue grass county in Iowa," the proving of which we shall leave to our blue grass friends in southwestern Iowa. Davis has made an excellent showing in the great coal palace and industrial exposition and no doubt will double her attractions in the palace of 1891.

#### MARION COUNTY.

The longer our journey continues the more interested we become, completely enraptured, as it were, with the beautiful scenes which surround us. Resting before our eyes in beauty and grandeur is the Marion county display. We enter her lovely boudoir and the first prominent feature which greets the eye is the excellent coal exhibit. The black diamonds are represented by huge blocks formed into pyramid shape in the center of the booth and we mark this county down as being most prolific in this valuable mineral, and upon investigation we find that she has forty-four mines in operation in the lower coal measures. The veins are six feet in thickness and very uniform. The largest mine is the No. 7 shaft of the White Breast Coal Company, located at Swan, on the Des Moines branch of



the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. The products of this mine are shipped to western Iowa and Nebraska; the vein of coal is about four and one-half feet thick and of the lower coal measures.

The Union mine at Flagler is the next largest mine in the county and is operated in the lower coal measures; the vein is six feet in thickness and very uniform. The product of this mine is shipped to western Iowa and Nebraska over the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; the owners are making valuable improvements at this mine and can largely increase the output the coming year. The Diamond mine at Dunreath, on the Wabash railroad, has railroad facilities for shipping coal; they have coal chutes at this mine to supply the locomotives on the road; they are mining in the lower coal measures, vein five and one-half feet thick, and are operating on the lands of the Red Rock Coal Company. The Collins mine is within the limits of Knoxville and located on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad and has splendid facilities for shipping coal. Much of the products of this mine is sold in the city. There are several mines in the vicinity of Knoxville that have a good local trade in the winter season. The North Star Coal Company's mine is located near Hamilton and several others in the vicinity haul their coal to the Wabash railroad with teams and ship it north. There is considerable business done here in the winter season, but the great difficulty is in getting it to the railroad. This county has more mines in operation than any other in the state, the greater part being operated for local trade and are found in nearly every township in the county. The mines in the southern part of the county are all operated for local trade, with the exception of those at Hamilton, before mentioned. The lower coal measures extend over a large part of the

county, which will some day be one of the largest coal producing counties in the state; in 1887 the production amounted to 212,695 tons.

Marion county is located near the center of the state and is in the third tier from the south, with the Des Moines river running diagonally through it from the northwest to the southeast; it is besides well watered by Skunk river in the northeast, while White Breast creek and English creek empty their waters into the Des Moines near the eastern line, and numerous other small streams, the banks of each being covered with good timber. The soil in this county cannot be surpassed for the production of grass, wheat, oats and corn, while vegetables grow to monstrous size and are elegant in quality. The timbered and uncultivated land in this county is covered with a fine, heavy growth of famous blue grass, making the finest pasture for stock known in the world. There is no portion of the county but what is settled and most of it in a high state of cultivation, showing some of the finest farms in the state of Iowa. Some of the best stock in the state is found in this county; it has a world-wide reputation for its fine horses, which command the highest price in the eastern markets, the facilities for fine stock-raising having driven the poor stock beyond its borders, so that none but the best are kept here.

The cultivated land produces wonderful crops, while the soil will stand drouth better than any other known, and still, the surface of the land being rolling, carries off the water in wet seasons; therefore, it possesses some of the best farming lands in the state. Fruits of all kinds shown in this booth do well in this county and exceptionally fine crops of small fruits are produced. The timber is of fine quality and very abundant, a large amount of walnut timber having been shipped to the

eastern markets. Gray and blue limestone and red and gray sandstone of fine quality are quite abundant and very easy to quarry; elegant samples of the above are on exhibition in this booth. The celebrated Red Rock quarries are situated in this county and are being extensively worked and the products shipped to St. Louis, Des Moines, Ottumwa and many other cities, it being a very handsome and durable building-stone for fine residences and business blocks. The limestone quarries at Durham and other places are extensively worked and the rock shipped in every direction; it is of the finest quality. The coal fields in this county are so extensive and the coal of such excellent quality that the wealth of the coal production is equal to or greater than that produced from the surface of the land. The fuel, in both wood and coal, cannot be equaled in any other county in the great west. The coal crops out along the Des Moines river and every stream and creek in the county, and a glance at the map and location of the stream shows that the field covers the entire county. The shipping facilities in these regions are very fine, as a glance at the map will show that the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad traverses it entirely from the southeast to the northwest, affording the farmer, the coal operator, the wood merchant, the owner of stone quarries and all splendid facilities for shipping purposes. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad passes through the northeast portion of the county and the Wabash railroad from the northwest to the southeast—all through a rich coal county. These are some of the natural advantages possessed by Marion county, while it is settled by an intelligent, industrious and refined people who are enterprising and progressive and are rapidly improving the county. The towns are growing rapidly and long ago the cabins of the early settlers were sheds; to-day

large, commodious buildings are seen scattered throughout the county. In this booth are seen several pairs of wooden shoes from the wooden shoe palace, which was built at Pella some few months previous, and were made by the Hollanders who have a thriving settlement near this place. They are an industrious colony of people and in winter they wear these wooden shoes. We notice in this display elegant samples of flour from roller process mills in this county, and one grade bears the wooden shoe brand which sells readily on the Holland market.

The Iowa Central University of Pella is one of the leading institutions of the state and has a wide reputation as a first-class school of instruction. The State Industrial Home for the adult blind is also established at Knoxville in this county and the work of building commenced, which of itself will be a large manufacturing institution. The advantages herein named are all possessed by this county and when we look over her wonderful exhibit in the coal palace we pronounce her one of the richest in the great west. Those seeking homes in other lands could not find a more wealthy, healthy or more beautifully situated county than Marion in the coal palace regions of southeastern Iowa.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Passing along the large, main aisle we find that the latch-string hangs on the outside of Jefferson county's magnificent apartments and we pass in. To say that we were amazed but vaguely expresses our surprise as we gazed on the elaborate display made by this county. So very skillful and artistic are these elegant decorations we almost wonder within ourselves whether or not they were manipulated by human hands. This

booth is under the supervision of three very pleasant and agreeable commissioners and we were royally entertained by them during our sojourn here. As we note the many beautiful things in this bower of beauty we are led to believe that Jefferson is a grand county. The first elegant displays that meet our gaze are the fruits, which are an index of the orchards in this county. Jefferson dotes on her apples particularly, which her people declare are the finest in the state. The vegetables rank among the very best in the palace. The different varieties of grasses and grain are excellent and go toward making Jefferson one of the most productive counties in the state. The display of native woods denotes a marvelously heavy growth of timber in her section, numbering over 100 varieties. The display of fine arts is second to none in the palace, while the manufacturing industries of the county are largely represented. The Fairfield bottling works occupy large space with a fine display of bottled goods and the famous Loudon Bros. of Fairfield have an excellent exhibit in hay tools manufactured by them and the finest we have ever seen for loading hay. The Tarney & Company Wagon factory of the same place shows a fine wagon of its manufacture, while the Fairfield canning factory shows an elegant line of canned goods.

The marble works of Fairfield are represented by samples of beautiful work. Two roller process flouring mills and one furniture factory have elegant displays and occupy large space. A cotton plant just opening its buds is admired by many. Coal and tiling are other prominent features seen in this booth. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad traverses this county from east to west, affording excellent facilities to any part of the United States, while the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific traverses it from north to south.



Jefferson county is noted as being one of the richest counties in the state—rich in timber, in building material, in grain and live stock. Jefferson for variety of products is one of the most remarkable in the state. Splendid farms, flocks of sheep, fine cattle and horses—certainly Jefferson is rich in her possessions. Fairfield, the county seat, is beautifully situated and is noted for its elegant school system, fine churches and Parson's College, an excellent Presbyterian institution, is also located here in the northern portion of the city. Her electric light system is one of the finest in the state and at night the whole city is beautifully illuminated. The residence portion of the city contains many beautiful homes, while her people are noted throughout the west for their great hospitality. Jefferson county can show some of the most elegant farms in the state, while handsome and durable farm residences greet the eye of the traveler in every direction. Cozy school-houses are seen in every district and large herds of elegantly fed stock are seen grazing in rich blue grass pastures. Jefferson has splendid grazing facilities in the valleys of numerous streams of water which flow through her section and has a number of substantial iron bridges spanning the streams at different places in the county.

Jefferson has ten coal mines in operation. The Jefferson County Coal Company at Perlee have made valuable improvements and have largely increased their output; it is now one of the best paying mines in the county. Perlee is an old mining town. The Coal Port mine, about ten miles east of Fairfield, is one of the principal mines in Jefferson county. There was not much done at the mine in 1885, but since the present manager took charge of the mine the production has steadily increased. In 1887, 5,000 tons were mined and shipped; the principal market

was Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. This mine is located on the eastern part of the Iowa coal fields. The vein here is about four feet in thickness and supposed to be the lower vein of coal. The mines located on Lick creek, three miles south of Libertyville, are mining considerable coal; it is hauled to the Ft. Madison & Northern Narrow Gauge railroad. The rest of the mines in the county are operated exclusively for local business. The output of coal for this county in 1886 was 1,083 tons; in 1887 it was 10,397 tons, being an increase of 9,314 and the prospect is good for a still larger increase the coming year. These are only a few of the great advantages which Jefferson county possesses and one that knows can only say to those seeking homes in the west, if you wish to locate in a country teeming with all the advantages which this section contains, where the climate is all that is desired, whose soil yields rich returns to the farmer for his labor, where cheap fuel is abundant, whose people are an intelligent and industrious class, come to Jefferson and view her broad expanse. Her excellent showing in the great coal palace demonstrates this fact to our people that she is one of the richest counties in any land under the shining sun.

“PROUD MAHASKA.”

This county was named after one of the most noted Indian chiefs of the Iowas, Ma-has-ka (which means white cloud), a descendant of the Mau-haw-gaw. The chief led his warriors in eighteen battles against the Sioux on the north and the Osages on the south and never failed to achieve a victory. He made his home on the Des Moines river, about 100 miles above its mouth, and must have been something of a Mormon, for it is said he had seven wives. In 1824 he was one of a party of chiefs who visited Washington. He left his home on the banks

of the Des Moines to go down the river on his way to join his party, and when near where the city of Keokuk is now located he stopped to prepare and eat his venison. He had just commenced his meal when someone struck him on the back. Turning round he was surprised to see one of his wives, Rant-chewai-mie (female flying pigeon), standing with an uplifted tomahawk in her hand. She accosted him with, "Am I your wife? Are you my husband? If so I will go with you to Maw-he-hum-ne-chi (the American big house) and see and shake the hand of In-co-ho-nee," meaning the great father, as they call the President. Mahaska answered: "Yes; you are my wife. I am your husband. I have been a long time from you. I am glad to see you. You are my pretty wife and a brave man always loves to see a pretty woman." Ma-has-ka went on to Washington accompanied by his "pretty wife," Rant-chewai-mie, who received many presents, but saw many things of which she disapproved. When she returned she called together the matrons and maidens of the tribe and warned them against the vices and follies of their white sisters. This good Indian woman was killed by being thrown from her horse soon after her return from Washington. In 1834 Ma-has-ka was also killed about sixty miles from his home on the Nodaway by an enemy, who took a cowardly advantage of him. At the time of his death he was fifty years of age. After his death all his surviving wives went into mourning and poverty, according to the custom of the tribe, except one named Mis-so-rah-tar-ra-haw (female deer that bounds over the prairie), who refused to the end of her life to be comforted, saying that her husband "was a great brave and was killed by dogs," meaning low fellows.

The coal palace idea first originated in this county with J. W. Johnson of the Oskaloosa *Globe*. Citizens of that place

seemingly considered the matter and appointed a committee, and Mr. A. Wetherill of Oskaloosa drew up a plan much upon the same idea as that of the present coal palace. For some reason the whole matter fell through and Ottumwa jumped into the scheme and right royally have they carried it out to the last letter. But Mahaska reaps a great benefit and the liberality and public spirit of her citizens have materially contributed to the success of the coal palace, in the glory of which she deserves a large share.

One great central pyramid of steps contains the exhibit comprising elegant specimens of all kinds of grains in jars, including some of Mahaska's celebrated wheat, that produce forty-two bushels to the acre. There are corn, oats, rye, timothy, clover, broom corn, flax, onions, pumpkins, squashes, melons of all varieties; there are sweet potatoes that would make Muscatine island turn green with envy, and splendid Irish potatoes, which are greatly admired by all our friends from Ireland, and in fruit Mahaska takes the cake, especially in apples. Noticeable among the fruits is the garden peach "Tuck," the "blizzard proof" peach originated by a Mr. Hendricks and propagated by Mr. John Chamberlain of Oskaloosa. It is confidently claimed that this peach can be grown with success and great profit in this latitude, and is believed by many to be one of the most important developments yet made by Iowa horticulturists. In this booth the eye rests on pears, plums, twenty varieties of grapes, persimmons, paw-paws and chestnuts; whether or not the latter can be called a fruit, one thing is sure, they grow very prolifically in Mahaska county. The artistic display is very beautiful; arranged in an effective manner are life-sized crayon portraits, oil paintings and sketches, the products of Mahaska's genius and skill. All this with an

exquisite display of cut roses from Kemble's Floral Company of Oskaloosa, which has been renewed daily, has made this exhibit a bower of beauty and delight to all ladies visiting the palace. Mahaska day and President Harrison's day came on the same day, but this did not dispel the fact that this was Mahaska day at the coal palace, and fully 5,000 people came into Ottumwa from the county on presidential day, bringing with them bushels of roses to decorate with. Prominent on the rostrum was a stand covered entirely with trailing smilax and all colors of Marcholneil roses, which was placed in front of the President after he was seated, and was greatly admired by the whole presidential party. After the President's reception in the afternoon twenty-three Welsh coal miners from Oskaloosa filed on the stage platform and gave a full chorus, "The Comrade at Arms," which was fine and greatly appreciated by the large assembly present in the auditorium; their singing-master accompanied them and kept perfect time during the rendition of the same, while the harmonious blending of voices so carefully and beautifully trained, from the deep bass to the high, fine tenor, fell on the ear like the laugh of a silvery wave, or the rippling of many waters; we were completely enraptured, as it were, with the sweet voices of these toiling miners.

King Coal dwells ever underground,  
Surrounded by his gnomes,  
Who carve his chambers in the earth  
And scoop out rocky domes.

Ever they work by torchlight, there  
The clear sun never shines  
To glad the hearts of the thousands toiling,  
Toiling in the mines.

But still they burrow like patient moles;  
They work and gaily sing,  
Their voices ringing through the vaults  
In praises of their king.



In order that the reader may retain and carry with him the grand story of wealth, productiveness, vast resources, material prosperity and general comfort told by Mahaska's exhibit, the following posters are conspicuously displayed and their eloquence speaks for itself: "Mahaska county is first in coal"; "Second in hogs"; "First in horses"; "Fourth in agricultural products." Fine farms, with a court-house that cost \$75,000. Coal output 18,000 tons, one-fourth the output of the entire state. The commissioners who have labored so zealously and faithfully to collect and prepare for this exhibit are Samuel Rowe, chairman and treasurer of the Board of Trade of Oskaloosa; W. A. Bryan of New Sharon; Andrew Baker of Eddyville; Col. Swalm, secretary of Oskaloosa committee.

Mahaska county is in the third tier of counties from the south line of the state and the fifth from the Mississippi river, its south line lying twelve miles north of the coal palace. The county is drained by three rivers and underneath its fertile soil are rich beds of coal, nine-tenths of which are unoccupied. It has thirty-nine coal mines in operation employing over 2,000 men. The output last year was 1,000,000 tons of coal and \$1,250,000 was paid out for the employment of miners. Oskaloosa is the county seat, with a population of 8,000; it has waterworks, electric lights, gas, free mail delivery, street cars, telephones, fine drainage, stately buildings, beautiful residences, three colleges, fine public school system, fifteen churches and all the best improvements of which western towns can boast. The people are progressive and business here is always prosperous. Mahaska wants more capital, new factories and lots of new people. Mahaska is also exceedingly rich in timber, which is found all along the banks of the Des Moines and Skunk rivers and three tributaries. There is an

abundance of the best limestone for building purposes, a monument of limestone from the quarries of Osborne & Co. at Eddyville forming one of the features of the exhibit. Mahaska is "first in coal"; her manufacturing industries are numerous—flouring mills, oatmeal mills, foundries and machine shops, the Seeveres Manufacturing Company of brick and tile, glue factory, the Week Furnace Company, etc. Five railroads furnish excellent transportation facilities for Mahaska and fuel is a matter of insignificant expense. If the Indian chief Ma-has-ka could arise to-day from his long abode in the forest, on the banks of the peaceful Des Moines river, and look upon the excellent exhibit made by the county that bears his name, in the great coal palace and industrial exposition at Ottumwa, he would cry aloud in all his Indian eloquence: "Well done, proud Ma-has-ka, queen of Iowa counties, the home of my boyhood days! Many moons and many winters have passed by since my beloved people roamed wild and free through your forests, which have faded like a vision, and over the hillside and plain your orchards have sprung up in great beauty, and I can see field after field of golden grain where then waved the tall prairie grass. All honor, profit and praise to this country, which the Great Spirit gave the noble Iowas centuries ago!"

#### KEOKUK COUNTY.

Keokuk county derived its name from the great Indian chief, who belonged to the Sac branch of the nation, named Keokuk or Watchful Fox; he was born on Rock river in 1780. He was a great orator and was also entitled to rank as warrior, for he possessed courage and energy and at the same time a cool judgment. He had an intelligent appreciation of the power

and greatness of the United States and saw the futility of Black Hawk's hope to contend successfully against the government. In his first battle, while young, he had killed a Sioux and for this he was honored with a feast by his tribe.

At the beginning of the Black Hawk war an affair transpired which was dignified by the name of the Battle of Stillman's Run, in which some 300 volunteers under Major Stillman took prisoners five of Black Hawk's men who were approaching with a flag of truce. One of the prisoners was shot by Stillman's men. Black Hawk had also sent five other men to follow the bearers of the flag. The troops came upon these and killed two of them; the other three reached their camp and gave the alarm. Black Hawk's warriors then charged upon Stillman's advancing troops and completely routed them. This failure to respect the flag of truce so exasperated the Indians that it was with great difficulty that Keokuk could restrain his warriors from espousing the cause of Black Hawk. Stillman's defeat was followed by a war-dance, in which Keokuk took part. After the dance he called a council of war and made a speech in which he admitted the justice of their complaints. The blood of their brethren slain by the white men while bearing a flag of truce called loudly for vengeance. Said he: "I am your chief and it is my duty to lead you to battle if, after fully considering the matter, you are determined to go. But, before you decide on taking this important step, it is wise to inquire into the chances of success. But if you do determine to go upon the warpath I will agree to lead you on one condition, viz., that before we go we will kill all our old men and our wives and children to save them from a lingering death by starvation and that everyone of us determine to leave our homes on the other side of the Mississippi."

Keokuk so forcibly portrayed in other parts of this speech the great power of the United States and of the hopeless prospect before them that his warriors at once abandoned all thought of joining Black Hawk. The name Keokuk signified Watchful Fox. As we have seen, he eventually superseded Black Hawk and was recognized by the United States as the principal chief of the Sac and Fox nation, which indeed had much to do in stinging the pride of the imperious Black Hawk. In person he was strong, graceful and commanding, with fine features and an intelligent countenance. He excelled in horsemanship, dancing and all athletic exercises. He was courageous and skillful in war, but mild and polite in peace. He had a fine son, a promising boy, who died at Keokuk's village on the banks of the Des Moines river in Mahaska county. Keokuk himself became dissipated during the later years of his life in Iowa. It was reported after his removal with his people to Indian Territory he died of delirium tremens. Iowa has honored his memory in the name of one of her counties and one of her principal cities in the southeastern part of the state.

Keokuk county has her display in the extreme northwest portion of the palace, on the north aisle, and the doors of her booth are thrown wide open that all may step in and learn of her great resources. The entire decorations were made by the county—the agricultural and mechanical below and the fine arts upstairs—and as we gaze on her elegant display we are led to believe that she may be one of the wealthiest counties in the state. The commissioner in charge of this booth is Captain J. T. Parker of Sigourney in this county, whom we find to be a most pleasant and agreeable gentleman and is ably assisted in the work here by his estimable wife. Both have made many friends during their sojourn in the palace city and gave us much

information regarding their country. Directly in the front part of this booth are two beautiful and thrifty Chinese palms and underneath their spreading branches is seen a number of handsome aquaria, which contain a special exhibit of fancy gold and pearl fish, which we shall describe further on. In the center of the booth is a large pyramid of steps, completely covered with excellent fruits, vegetables, grains and grasses and an elegant line of canned goods put up by Keokuk's own domestic hands. This exhibit is one of the most complete in the palace and crowds linger around it every day, eager to gaze on all the many beautiful features which it contains. In one corner we notice a very handsome and highly polished center table, made of fifty-two kinds of wood. A checker-board inlaid with dark and light wood on the top makes it a very attractive piece of work. These woods are all native to Keokuk county. Six flouring mills are represented in this booth—all roller process—with excellent grades of flour. A complete line of fancy wicker work manufactured at Keota, this county, is another fine display and one greatly admired by the ladies in passing through the palace. Six cheese factories are represented with an elegant line of cheese, which speaks volumes for Keokuk in this industry. Fine samples of brick and tile form a pretty fence around the exhibit and were manufactured at Sigourney. A miniature monument of genuine granite occupies a prominent position and advertises well the workmanship of the cutter. Among the vegetables we notice large, well-matured potatoes, which the commissioner informs us grew in six weeks' growth in Keokuk's loamy soil and weigh two pounds. From a card conspicuous in this booth we take the following facts: "Shipments ending the year June 30, 1890: Horses, 12 cars; cattle, 685; hogs, 1,290; sheep, 22; rye, 33; corn, 952; oats, 1,004;



flour, 150,000; products of the dairy, 855 tons; brick and tile, 95 cars; soft coal, 25,962; miscellaneous, 10,357."

Reader! What do you think of this county and of the products of her soil? of her facilities as a stock country? and of the products of her mines? It is indeed astonishing. There are twelve coal mines in this county at What Cheer, extensively operated and products shipped to all parts of the country.

Keokuk county also has a history in ancient relics and our attention is called first to a large, old-fashioned chair which occupies a prominent position in this booth; and a remarkable story is connected with its past. It was made in the year 1686 in England for John Buckly by his son Jonathan and was brought to Philadelphia when that great city was a very small village. William Penn sat in it many times in his days; the first four presidents of the United States occupied it during their lifetime and John Quincy Adams in his day; the chair was placed on the rostrum and occupied by President Harrison during his visit to the coal palace. This wonderful curiosity is owned by Miss L. M. Buckly of Keokuk county and has been remarkably well preserved; it bears the date of 1686 on the back, in old English figures, and drew crowds to Keokuk's apartments every day. We notice another great curiosity hanging on the west wall of this booth, a quilt made by the Ladies' Social Circle of Keota, on which all the business firms of that city are represented on separate cards, also all the professional men. It is as perfect a business directory as we have ever seen and attracts all eyes; each card is as neat as if printed by the press and is outlined on cream silk with red silk floss. It is a beautiful and very attractive piece of handiwork and attracts the attention of all ladies, each pronouncing it a wonderful piece of fancy work.

Keokuk county lies directly north of Jefferson, in the third tier from the south line of the state and third from the Mississippi river, directly east of Mahaska, in the fertile valleys of the classic Skunk river. Sigourney is the county seat of this county and is a wideawake business city; all classes of business are represented here necessary in supplying a large and beautiful county tributary; it has good railroad facilities for shipping. Sigourney is an old town and the traveler is at once surprised when he sees the extent of her business qualities. Her citizens are an intelligent and aristocratic class and take great pride in their schools and churches; she has an excellent public school system and all denominations of the Christian religion have church homes in this city. The soil and climate of this county are adapted for the raising of corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, flax, broom corn, sorghum, blue grass, timothy and clover; her pastures teem with an elegant growth of blue grass; therefore, as a natural consequence, she is noted for fine cattie, horses, hogs and sheep, which are shipped to the market at all seasons of the year and find ready sale. The home of the industrious farmer in this section indicates wealth, prosperity, contentment and intelligence, and as fine farms as are found in the west are seen in this county; abundant crops being raised here every year. Native timber is very heavy in this county, which, with abundance of coal and plenty of water, is well adapted for all kinds of manufacturing industries; surely those in search of homes within the limits of our great state would do well to investigate the great natural advantages which this county possesses. Thornburg is a pretty, picturesque village, near which is located the gold, silver and pearl fish fishery of Bruce Bros. Their exhibit in this booth attracted wide attention, showing over 150 beautiful, healthy fish of their

own raising, except three imported Japanese fan tails, three of fifty which they imported to raise.

Bruce Bros. are young men of high social standing in the community in which they live and are making a grand success of their business in the west, having located here but three years ago. They are the only wholesale and retail dealers in fancy, gold and pearl fish west of Pittsburg, Penn., from which city they came to Keokuk county, Iowa. They have ten acres in ponds and every facility for the successful raising of these fish. No longer will western people be compelled to send to Chicago or eastern points to dealers for these fish, as they can be had in any quantity desired at this fishery at Thornburg, Iowa. They deal in all styles of aquaria, globes, stands, ornaments, fish food and water plants, and on presidential day at the coal palace decorated one of their handsomest globes in flowers and put in it four of their most beautiful gold, silver and pearl fish and sent it to "Baby McKee" by grandpa Harrison, with Bruce Bros.' compliments. Iowa is well adapted to the successful raising of fish, as is demonstrated by the wonderful success of Bruce Bros. Keokuk was a great chief and Keokuk county, which bears his name, is a great county and one of the finest among the ninety and nine in Iowa and her exhibit in the great coal palace of 1890 demonstrated this fact to our people.

#### MONROE COUNTY.

Last, but not at all the least, we look upon Monroe county, the last county exhibit in the palace, situated at the left of the main entrance. The pleasant commissioner from Albia lowers the bars and we pass into this great country; we are both surprised and pleased when we gaze upon her magnificent dis-

play of genius and enterprise. Our eyes rest first on the "Monroe County Queen," made entirely of the products of the soil by the ladies of Albia. She stands on a decorated pedestal, queen of all she surveys and attracts the eye of every visitor to the palace. Her hat is made of plaited oat's straw, very broad-rimmed and trimmed in natural field flowers of all colors, intermingled with wild red berries. Her bangs are of corn-silk, being very blonde and have been curled on a modern curler, while her long back hair falling so gracefully around her shoulders is of flax, which has been scutched and hackled until as fine as silk. Her basque is made of some light material completely covered with flax seed, which has been put on with glue, the effect of which is very beautiful indeed. Her dress skirt is also made in the latest style, with drop skirt and covered with millet and mustard seed, with set-in panels made of black muslin sprinkled with coal and diamond dust, which sparkles and glistens like diamonds and the drop skirt falls over a trimming of the same material. Her jewelry consists of pin, earrings and necklace made of small blocks of coal, representing jet. Her face is a make-up of a combination of the different kinds of flour and is astonishingly striking and touched off by "Laird's bloom of youth." Her gloves are of old gold color covered with mustard seed and she holds a small scythe in her left hand covered with blue grass heads. She stands here in all her magnificent beauty on a pedestal of grasses and grains and, aside from the blue grass cow in the blue grass regions exhibit, is the only figure in the palace composed entirely of the products of Monroe county. Near by this queen we notice an old clock, so old that 149 years have passed by since it first stood on "grandfather's floor," being too large of course for the shelf and it still ticks, ticks, ticks, as the iron weights go slowly

downward. What a history these old clocks always have. We look upon stalks of corn in this booth thirteen feet high, of wonderful growth, containing full, large, round ears and a magnificent display of vegetables. We almost wish we might live in Monroe county when we look upon her elegant display in this line. There are only sixteen cheese factories represented here and a large shelf extending around three sides of the exhibit contains the samples from each. This is an excellent showing of Monroe's dairy interests. The numerous and beautiful varieties of grain displayed, both in the stalk and in glass jars, are wonderful to look upon and denote a rich and fertile soil in her section. Elegant fruits in season are shown, fine apples particularly and Monroe's orchards are groaning to-day with their burdens of luscious fruit.

Monroe county is the second county from the south line of the state and the fifth from the Mississippi river and directly west of Wapello. Monroe is noted for the fertility of its soil and fine coal beds, which are extensively mined and products shipped to all parts of the country. There are nineteen mines in operation at the present time and seven of these have excellent railroad facilities for shipping coal. Three of these are located west of Albia, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; two are on the Iowa Central railroad, northeast of Albia; two others are east of Albia, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; one at Chisholm, and one at Avery. There are several small mines in the vicinity of Avery that haul their coal in wagons and ship it. There are some small mines both north and south of Albia that are working in the upper vein of coal. The product is sold at local sales. The mines that are doing a shipping business are working in the middle seam of the lower coal measures and nearly



all of them increased their output last year and all are preparing to increase their business this coming year. Monroe is bounded by five large coal-producing counties—Marion, Mahaska, Wapello, Appanoose and Lucas—and is in the center of the finest part of the Iowa coal fields. This county produced in 1887 183,505 tons and has greatly increased the output since. The farms in Monroe rank among the best in the state and large crops are raised here every year. Corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, millet, flax, clover, blue grass and timothy have luxuriant growth and cattle, horses, hogs and sheep are raised by the thousand and shipped to other markets.

Monroe's reputation for fine horses extends far and wide; they command the highest prices in the eastern markets. Her railroad facilities are excellent. The great "Q." route passes through the county from east to west, with branches extending both north and south through fertile countries. Albia is the county seat of Monroe, beautifully located on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and is one of the prettiest towns in the state. Elegant schools and churches are found here, while the people are an intelligent and industrious class. The business portion of the town surrounds a pretty square, in which is located a handsome court-house. All classes of business are carried on here—successful in supplying the wants of a wealthy country surrounding her. A branch line of the "Q." runs from here north to Des Moines through a fine country and has large patronage. The Cramer house in Albia is a fine brick hotel and is successfully operated by Mr. J. B. Rufner, late of Des Moines, who runs a first-class house in every particular.

All in all, Monroe county is hard to beat in her numerous advantages and is as fine a country as is found anywhere on

the continent. So ends a description of the marvelous exhibits made by nine productive counties in southeastern Iowa, which are the finest ever witnessed in the world. There are yet four other excellent counties in southeastern Iowa which are not represented in the palace—Henry, Lee, Des Moines and Louisa; therefore, we shall make a general description of these as we pass through them.

#### LEE COUNTY.

First is Lee county, which lies along the Mississippi valley, forming the extreme southeast corner of our great state and one of the richest in agricultural resources. Ft. Madison is the county seat, located on the west bank of the Mississippi, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Santa Fe railroads; it is a thriving town of about 4,000 inhabitants, has excellent schools and colleges, handsome church edifices and an intelligent and prosperous class of people.

The Mississippi valley is noted for the great fertility of its soil, and so is the Des Moines, and Lee county lies between the two; so the reader may judge of her great advantages. Everything known to the latitude grows prolifically in this section of country and some of the most elegant orchards found in the west are located in Lee county, sending forth thousands of bushels of luscious apples every year to other markets, while small fruits also yield large returns. The climate is unsurpassed in the west and Keokuk, one of the largest and best cities in the state, is located within her border on the west bank of the great Mississippi, in the extreme southeast corner. Montrose is another pretty town; here the famous apple orchards of so much interest are located.

In 1809 a military post was established where Ft. Madison is now located, but, of course, the country was not open to white

settlers until after the "Black Hawk Purchase." In 1834 troops were stationed at the point where Montrose is now located and at that time the place was called Ft. Des Moines. At the foot of the lower rapids there was a place which, prior to 1834, was known as Farmers' Trading Post. In September of that year a meeting of half-breed Indians and their assigns was held in the trading-house then owned by Isaac C. Campbell. The object of the meeting was to petition congress for the passage of a law granting them the privilege to sell and convey their respective titles to what was then known as the Half-Breed Reservation, according to the laws of Missouri. In attendance on this meeting were representatives from Prairie du Chien and St. Louis. At this time there were about nine families residing in the vicinity and after the adjournment of the meeting the resident citizens repaired to the inn of John Gaines to talk over their prospects when the half-breed tribe should become extinct. They looked forward to the time when a city should grow up at that point. John Gaines called the meeting to order and made a speech in which he said the time had now come to agree upon a name for the town. He spoke of Chief Keokuk as a friend of the white man and proposed his name for the future city. The proposition met with favor and the name was adopted. In 1847 the town was laid out and a public sale of lots took place in June. Only two or three lots were sold, although many attended from St. Louis and other points. In 1840 the greater portion of Keokuk was dense forest, the improvement being only a few cabins. In 1847 a census of the place gave a population of 620. During the year 1832 Captain James White made a claim on the present site of Montrose and in the same year, soon after the close of the Black Hawk war, seven persons made claims on the site where Ft. Madison now

stands. In 1833 these claims were purchased by John and Nathaniel Knapp, upon which in 1835 they laid out the town.

Lee county is rich in her possessions, has excellent railroad facilities and the traveler is delighted with the beautiful scenery which surrounds him in passing through her section of country.

#### DES MOINES COUNTY.

The first white settlement made in this county was in the fall of 1832. Daniel Tothero came with his family and settled on the prairie about three miles from the Mississippi river. About the same time Samuel White with his family erected his cabin near the river at what is known as the Upper Bluff, within the limits of the present city of Burlington. This was before the extinction of the Indian title, for that did not take place before June 1, 1833, when the government acquired the territory under what was known as the "Black Hawk Purchase." There was then a government military post at Rock Island and some dragoons came down from that place during the next winter and drove Tothero and White over the river, burning their cabins. White remained in Illinois until the first of the following June, when the Indians surrendered possession of the "Black Hawk Purchase," and on that very day was on the ground and built his second cabin. This cabin stood on what is now Front street, between Court and High streets, in the city of Burlington. Soon after Mr. White's return his brother-in-law, Doolittle, joined him and in 1834 they laid out the original town, naming it Burlington for the town of that name in Vermont. The name was given at the request of John Gray, a Vermonter, and a friend of the proprietors. During the year 1833 there was considerable settlement made in the vicinity and soon a mill was erected by Mr. Donnell on Flint

creek, three miles from Burlington. In 1837 Major McKell erected a sawmill in the town. In June, 1834, congress passed an act attaching the "Black Hawk Purchase" to the territory of Michigan for temporary government. In September of the same year the legislature of Michigan divided this purchase into two counties—Des Moines and Dubuque. They also organized a county court in each county and for Des Moines county made the seat of justice at Burlington. The first court was held in April, 1835, in a log house. In 1838 Iowa was made a separate territory and Burlington was made the capital and so remained until after the admission into the Union as a state. The territorial legislature met for several years in the first church erected in Burlington, known as "Old Zion," where the present elegant opera-house is now located. The author has a warm spot in her heart for Burlington and Des Moines counties, being the country in which she was born, and her parents were among the first settlers of Iowa, locating in Des Moines county in 1838.

Now pass we o'er a few fast-fleeting years  
With their joys and sorrows, their hopes and fears.  
On something change is written every day  
And time is passing; placed along the way  
New men and scenes upon the Iowa stage,  
Which still are living on historic page.

Des Moines county lies along the western banks of the Mississippi river in the extreme eastern portion of the state and in the second tier from the south line. The Mississippi valley is noted throughout the world for the fertility of its soil and for the numerous great cities which have sprung up along its banks from its source to its mouth. The agricultural resources of this county are known far and wide, yet to the world there is much to tell of the people who have placed it in the front



ranks of the ninety and nine in Iowa. The soil in this county is deep, rich and loamy and never wears out and yields large returns every year to the husbandmen. Corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, millet and flax are the principal products raised here and abundance of blue grass, timothy and clover abound throughout her section, making her one of the finest stock countries in the world. Her grazing facilities are unsurpassed. Beautiful streams of pure, fresh water steal their way through all portions of the county, which empty their waters into the deep channels of the great Father of Waters and afford an excellent supply for the thousands of cattle which graze along their banks. The traveler in passing through this section of country is favorably impressed with the beauty of its landscapes and the number of fine farms and farm residences which greet the eye in every direction. Neat churches and school buildings are also seen in every district and on every hand may be seen indications of wealth, prosperity and comfort. The great "Q." route penetrates the county entirely from east to west, while the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern traverses it from north to south and numerous other roads pass through different portions of the same, affording excellent shipping facilities for all. Burlington is the county seat of Des Moines and has a population of about 30,000 and is one of the wealthiest cities in the state, a full description of which is given in another portion of this book. Middletown, Danville, Medeapolis, Denmark, Augusta and Kossuth are all flourishing villages and take great pride in their schools and churches. West Burlington has assumed large proportions during the past two years, a description of which is also given in another part of this book. Middletown is a small but picturesque village, filled with a charitable and hospitable people and is the place where the author of this book

first saw the light of the world in 1856. This pretty village lies nine miles west of the city of Burlington, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and is surrounded by a splendid farming region which has excellent markets at Burlington. Des Moines county has been the home of many noble pioneers and their memories are preserved fresh and green in the minds of many of the settlers of the present day.

In the heart of the grand old forest,  
A thousand miles to the west,  
Where the streams gushed out from the hillside,  
They halted at last for rest.  
And the silence of ages listened  
To the ax stroke loud and clear,  
Divining a kingly presence  
In the tread of the pioneer.

#### HENRY COUNTY.

This county lies between Jefferson and Des Moines, north of Van Buren and Lee and is in the second tier from the south line and the second from the Mississippi river. Mt. Pleasant is the county seat of Henry, situated on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which traverses the county entirely from east to west. The Hospital for the Insane is located here, with mammoth, solid, stone buildings and cultivates about 600 acres of ground—property of the institution. Mt. Pleasant is a fine trading point for a large and wealthy country tributary. The Keokuk & Northwestern railroad enters her limits, coming from Ft. Madison in Lee county. Mt. Pleasant is a city of schools and colleges and large numbers of students from all parts of the country are seen here during the school year. Henry county is noted for the great advantages which she possesses in the chief wealth of a nation—agriculture. Her elegant farms are teeming with all the natural

resources which go toward making her one of the very best countries in the west. Corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, flax, millet, broom corn and sorghum are the principal products raised here, large crops of which are grown every year. Henry county is also noted as being one of the finest stock countries in the west; large numbers of fine cattle, hogs and horses are shipped from her section yearly, footing up large sums. Large quantities of native timber are seen by the traveler passing through her section along the banks of the classic Skunk river, whose rich valleys are covered with a luxuriant growth of blue grass, affording excellent pasturage for stock at all seasons of the year. Salem is a beautifully situated town, on the Ft. Madison & Burlington Narrow Gauge railroad; it is a pretty village, settled mostly with Quakers, who are intelligent and educated people and take great pride in their churches, which are neat and comfortable places of worship. The country surrounding Salem is high and undulating and some of the finest farms seen in the state are found here. Henry county is a beautiful and fertile country and if she had made a display in the coal palace it would have been an excellent one, for she is rich in all the golden grains, fruits and vegetables, manufactories, abundance of cheap fuel and a constant supply of water.

#### LOUISA AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES.

These two excellent counties have missed a great bonanza by not appearing in the great coal palace carnival of 1890, as they finish out the coal palace regions of southeastern Iowa, joining lands between the great Mississippi river and Keokuk county, in the third tier from the south line. In general with their sister counties, their valleys and prairies are overflowing in a high state of cultivation, which fully attests their worth as

agricultural counties. Southeastern Iowa comprises thirteen of the richest counties in the whole western country, abounding in coal and timber. The fertile valleys of the great Mississippi, Des Moines and Skunk rivers are thronged with thriving cities and villages, while the farm regions are teeming with the rich products which this latitude affords. The supply of timber is sufficient for ages to come, while the coal supply is inexhaustible and they are fast becoming large exporters of this valuable product. This section of country was the first to grow blue grass in Iowa, to the proof of which thousands of acres of blue grass pasture lands will attest, as well as every citizen of this county. The fertile soil of these regions produces from forty to sixty bushels of corn to the acre and the same of oats. The wheat crops are principally winter wheat, averaging some twenty bushels to the acre. Rye averages the same or more. There is more timothy seed exported every year from these regions than from any other in the state and clover is abundant. As a stock-growing country southeastern Iowa can hardly be surpassed in the great west. The rich pastures of the blue grass and clover lands bring the cost of preparing stock for market to the minimum and the beef cattle raised in this section command the best prices in eastern markets. Being in the extreme southern and eastern portions of the state, they have a mild and equable climate, and, as the trend of civilization is westward, we would call upon those citizens in our older states who may be desirous of seeking homes in the west, to inspect the great state of Iowa with an area of 55,045 square miles, almost all of which is available for cultivation. A salubrious climate and a fertile soil, one of the greatest agricultural states in the Union, with more arable and less waste land than any other territory of the same area. She is out of debt, with

a low tax rate—only two mills on the dollar. She possesses a magnificent capitol building costing \$3,600,000, with some sixteen state institutions, all well provided for. She has less pauperism and crime than any territory of like population in the United States. She stands at the head of all states in the Union as regards the per cent. of illiterates, having but 1.005 per cent. in the census of 1890.

Time many years has laid upon the shelf  
Since our great Uncle Sam possessed himself  
Of these domains, by nature so endowed  
With everything required to raise a proud  
Inheritance, for his restless, roving sons.

Will the reader kindly consent to finish with us the very pleasant journey of the great coal palace exhibits? They will be found very interesting and instructive and you will be highly delighted with the continued journey. We take great pleasure now in showing you through T. M. Sinclair's display, pork-packers and shippers, located at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We look upon Mr. Hog, in all his glorious attire, in this elegant booth, in bundles and in glass jars, in tin pails and in glass cases, in kegs and in bottles. Large hams, small hams, miniature hams and roll after roll of elegant breakfast bacon, put up for foreign markets. The English, the Scotch, the German, the Irish, the French, the Polish, the Swede—in fact, all of the nations of Europe eat Mr. Hog, cured and packed by T. M. Sinclair & Co. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The salt pork in barrels with glass heads is the most excellent we have ever seen—and we are good judges—just such pork as Boston folks like with baked beans. The valuable display of cured meats occupies large space in the extreme southeast corner and crowds linger around it day by day, eager



to gaze on the many handsome features which it contains. The capacity of this great pork-packing industry, which Iowa is proud to name within her borders, is 6,000 hogs a day, and employs 800 men. The owners have been in the pork-packing business, first in Belfast, Ireland, then in New York city and Cedar Rapids. They completed last summer a cold air plant at a cost of \$155,000, the finest by far in the west. They make a specialty of choice kettle lard, with samples of the same on exhibition, and their "Fidelity" brands of cured meats are the finest placed upon the market, elegant samples of which are also shown in this booth, and sell readily in New York and Liverpool. A large pyramid of tin pails filled with choice kettle lard attracts the eye at once when you enter this booth, while near it are large glass cases filled with the most tempting hams that it has ever been our good fortune to look upon, and our mind wanders back to the good old ham and fresh eggs, which no one but our sainted mothers knew how to make palatable. One can hardly believe that the breakfast bacon seen here in glass cases is a part of the hog; so perfect has been the curing of the same that the rolls show as pretty and even a brown as if browned in the oven. This handsome display by T. M. Sinclair & Co. is in charge of G. P. Smith, foreman of the Sinclair & Co. retail markets in Cedar Rapids, whom we find to be a most pleasant and agreeable gentleman, and many thanks are due him for information leading to a description of this beautifully arranged exhibit in the coal palace of 1890. He has made many friends during his sojourn in the palace among the people of southern Iowa and is seemingly in great demand by thousands of people passing through the palace at all times during the great industrial exposition. Why? Because he gave away 6,000 pails of choice

lard and 5,000 miniature hams as souvenirs during the exposition. A few days before the presidential party arrived he sent to the firm in Cedar Rapids and had a half dozen miniature hams made of silk plush, bearing their trademark, which he presented the presidential party as they passed through the T. M. Sinclair display in the coal palace exposition, and were greatly admired by them. This great pork-packing establishment is certainly one of Iowa's greatest industries and T. M. Sinclair & Co. will meet with a cordial welcome in the palace of 1891.

The R. T. Davis Mill Company of St. Joseph, Mo., has an elegant display of their numerous brands of flour adjoining the Sinclair display on the southeast, which we, having used the Blue D. brand, pronounce excellent.

We pass on to the next display, that of John Morrell & Co. of Ottumwa, pork-packers and shippers, who control a large industry in this line in East Ottumwa and one of the largest in the west. They make an excellent display of their different brands of cured meats and choice kettle and refined lard. Their booth is very artistic in effect, with a pretty fountain playing in the center, while barrels of salt pork and kegs of pickled pig's-feet are seen near the fountain. Glass cases containing ham and breakfast bacon arranged with pretty effect are principal attractions. Hanging on three sides of the exhibit are hams, shoulders and bacon, bearing the John Morrell brand; they are excellent, for we have used them. Hundreds of pails of choice lard are seen throughout the booth; also samples of refined lard in barrels. Hundreds visit this display every day and all pronounce it one of the finest in the palace. Their brands of cured meats sell readily on the markets in our own country, as well as in all foreign countries,

as they are extensive shippers and have one of the leading industries in the coal palace city.

#### NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD EXHIBIT.

Now, reader, let us wander away to the magnificent gallery floor of the great black diamond structure and gaze upon the wonderful scenes of an elaborately decorated heaven, whose sky is radiant with all the exquisite colorings seen in the rainbow directly after a summer shower. Here our eyes rest on the beautiful exhibit made by the Northern Pacific railroad, which has won fame throughout the state of Iowa in the year of 1890 by the magnificent displays made first at the blue grass palace at Creston, Iowa, at the state fair at Des Moines, the capital city, and from thence to the great coal palace in the city of Ottumwa. We are inclined to believe after seeing all three that the display in the coal palace far surpasses those at Creston and Des Moines. As we gaze on the magnificent beauty of this booth, located in the extreme northeast portion of the building, we are at once struck with the beauty and exquisite effect of the ceiling decorations, manipulated by Mr. Oscar Vanderbilt, district passenger and land agent for the company at Des Moines, ably assisted by his wife, which surpass all other decorations on the gallery floor, and elicit hearty expressions of admiration and delight by a multitude who have looked upon them since the opening of the great industrial exposition. In this booth we see coal, iron, gold, copper and silver, which come from the richest mines in the west—Montana, Idaho, Dakota and Washington—a valuable and beautiful exhibit. Elegant samples of wool are shown, even finer than those seen by the author a few years ago at the state fair at Lexington, Ky., in the famous blue grass regions, from the

Cotswold and Angora sheep. When we look upon the numerous and excellent varieties of wheat, both in the stalk and in glass jars, we are fully persuaded that no other country under the shining sun is as rich in the producing of golden grains as these, which lie along the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, in the extreme northern part of the United States of America. They certainly excel in variety and quality any we have ever seen from any other region of the globe. First are samples of the Black African, of luxuriant growth, the Chili Club, Long Chaff, Red Chaff, the Landreth and Bairded Scotch Fife and elegant samples of No. 1 Hard wheat, so extensively grown in Minnesota. The display of oats, barley and millet is exceedingly fine and goes to show that the great northwest is fully up to the eastern, southern and middle states in the growing of large crops of grain. A great variety of garden seeds is shown here in sacks, from Washington and Oregon; peas, beans, sweet corn, squashes, cabbages, parsnips, melons, pumpkins—every kind of garden vegetable is grown successfully in this country and a fine line of fresh vegetables is shown, consisting of large and well-matured heads of cabbage, beets, parsnips, melons, etc., and we are led to believe that this country is very prolific in “garden sass.” The luscious and tempting fruits from Washington and Oregon exhibited here are exceedingly fine, having been put up in large, clear glass jars and form one of the most beautiful exhibits in the palace and tempt the appetites of thousands, while the pyramid, formed of sacks of flour, from the great Pillsbury mills in Minneapolis, Minn., is a drawing feature. Reader, have you ever seen flour put up in sacks, made of elegant satin, in colors of old gold and royal blue? We never did until we looked on these in the Northern Pacific exhibit. They are principal

objects of interest, we assure you, and the compliments passed on "Pillsbury's Best" would make a volume, especially by those who have used the flour from these, the greatest mills in the world, located at Minneapolis, on the banks of the greatest river on the continent, near the beautiful falls of St. Anthony, the output of which is thousands of barrels a day. This exhibit is greatly admired by the ladies, who remark: "What elegant cushions and pillows those lovely sacks would make!" "Wish I had one!" and "Aren't they lovely?" We would advise Pillsbury Bros. to have a few thousand miniature ones made and distributed as souvenirs next year at the palace. It would prove a great advertisement for them. The menageries of wild animals on exhibition are the wonder and admiration of all, especially the elk, with the finest pair of antlers in the United States, which makes the eye of the hunter turn green with envy. The huge buffalo head is a great curiosity, though thousands of these animals, at one time, roamed free over our prairies before a great tide of people came flowing in from the regions of the morning. The head of a beautiful, innocent-appearing antelope is seen here, while those of a moose, deer, both black and white, a Rocky mountain sheep and an elk form a beautiful and interesting exhibit. One almost imagines oneself in the zoological gardens of St. Louis or Cincinnati, surrounded by wild beasts from the forests and mountains of Idaho and Montana.

Altogether the Northern Pacific railroad exhibit in the coal palace of 1890 is one of the most interesting and novel in the entire building and is well presided over by the district passenger and land agent of Des Moines, Iowa, whose courteous and liberal treatment of the public has won not only friends for himself, but also for the great railroad he represents. Reader,



we will start from St. Paul, Minn., the main eastern terminus of the Northern Pacific railroad and make a flying trip over this route to Tacoma, on Puget Sound, and note the many beautiful cities and villages, lakes and rivers, mountains and valleys, the agricultural regions, the grazing facilities, coal and iron, precious metals, lumbering and fishing and last, but not least, its great scenic wonderland and the most picturesque, interesting and prosperous belt of country running between the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. This territory has more varied and striking scenery, more cultivated country, more towns and cities and better opportunities for settlement and business than that tributary to any other transcontinental line. For this reason the Northern Pacific is pre-eminently the favorite route to and from the Pacific coast points for pleasure tourists, for business men and for homeseekers. The eastern termini are St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., and Duluth, Superior and Ashland on the southeast shores of Lake Superior. St. Paul and Minneapolis are called the "Twin Cities" of the north, being so closely united and are exceedingly interesting places to visit by reason of their rapid and solid growth. Up stream and down both banks of the great Mississippi river are lined with mills, mills, mills—saw and lumber mills above the great bridges; flour and woolen mills, but mainly flour, below. Six, eight stories they tower aloft, the smokestacks belching clouds by day; the countless windows flashing with electric lights by night; the massive stone abutments and arches of the railway bridges echoing to the clang of machinery and the roar of tumbling waters. Ay, here are the wild rapids famed by the old French missionaries—"the rushing of great rivers." "Where are now the Ojibways and Dacotahs? Where the forest and the prairie? In this, the once favored haunts of the

red man, not a vestige of the painted Na-do-wee Sioux remains. The forests have been felled and floated down the winding stream; the broad prairies are criss-crossed far and near by lines of metal, whereon the clanging cable car, puffing motor or whirring electric trains dart to the suburbs of two great cities, whose centers lie perhaps ten miles apart, whose outskirts melt one into the other on the wooded plateau halfway between." Stately business structures, handsome residences, noble public edifices, extensive industrial establishments and vast commercial movements are all found in these cities. "Staid St. Paul has its winter carnival, wherein the worthy city fathers give themselves up to frolic and fun with an abandon that would do credit to that other crescent city at the tropical end of the river. The great ice palace is built and gleams with electric light and colored fires by night. Every man, woman and child in all St. Paul seems to take part; there are snowshoe clubs and toboggan clubs by the score; there is the maddest variety of uniforms; there are wild gangs of hilarious brokers, who seize and blanket-toss every catchable masculine; drummers' clubs parade in mid-January in dusters and palm-leaf fans; there are equipages that in cost and beauty would shine in Central Park; there is a winter king of the carnival who defends his stronghold against all comers in a grand final storming of the ice palace, in which the whole population seem to participate and in which fireworks by the ton and enthusiasm by the acre are lavished in magnificent display; the leading thoroughfares become long arcades of brilliant light, arched over with countless globes of fire; the massive bluffs that hem the winding valley are muffled in their mantle of snow; the river itself goes swirling southward under armor-plating of solid ice; the lofty iron bridges, spanning the stream from shore

to shore, some descending in easy grade into the lower town. some, like gossamer web, leaping the chasm from bluff to bluff. are twinkling with moving lights; the network of the streets of the lower city on both banks is traced by hundreds of sparkling lamps; the lofty turrets of the capitol, the city hall, the grand facades of the *Pioneer Press* and New York Life buildings, the scores of beautiful homesteads far up on the heights of Summit avenue and St. Anthony's hill are brilliant with illumination; the electric globes blaze high aloft; above all sparkle the stars in skies as clear as the ether of heaven; below, in restless, joyous motion, swarm the populace; and all the time the ice king's biting breath plays on glowing cheek and wrinkled brow, keen, yet utterly forgotten."

Ashland on the southeast shore of Lake Superior has the greatest iron ore docks in the world and more wheat is shipped from Duluth and Superior than from Chicago. The huge elevators and coal docks at these neighboring cities are objects of interest to the traveler. The western terminal city of the Northern Pacific system is Tacoma, on Puget sound, Wash., a place of marvelously rapid growth with an immense commercial mart in wheat, coal and lumber, and with shipping relations with all Pacific coast ports and with the ports of China and Japan. The most imposing snow-clad peak in America, Mount Tacoma, is in plain sight from the streets of the city. From Tacoma a Northern Pacific line runs southward to Portland, the rich and handsome commercial capital of the Columbia and Willamette valleys. Another branch runs northward to Seattle, the prosperous commercial center of the middle sound country.

The lake park region of Minnesota, which we pass through on the journey over this route, is a place for artists

to sketch and dream away the long sultry days of the summer time, or where poets might love to dwell. It is also an attractive resort for the sportsman, whether his weapon be rod or gun. The great number of cities and picturesque villages along the line are as suggestive of contentment and cultivation as those of our eastern states. St. Cloud, seventy-five miles above St. Paul; on the banks of the Mississippi river, thirty-five years ago was a primeval forest; to-day it has railroads, colleges, elegant public schools and fine churches, lovely streets, pleasant homes and houses for 8,000 people. The east and west bluff of the river where St. Cloud stands is high and steep, while the broad and fertile prairies stretching back of its level are very fertile, and from various points on this bluff the river view is beautiful, especially the one looking north to South Rapids, two miles above. The writer lived two years in this lovely city, not many years since, and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful scenery surrounding it. It was in St. Cloud that the wonderful Mrs. Swissholm published the most northwestern newspaper in the early days of Minnesota. The next city of interest is Brainard, "City of Pines", whose large population is due to the Northern Pacific shops being located there and lies in the midst of a hundred lakes, "cosy nooks of sunshine that one may own within the compass of a farm," "pocket editions of poetry in velvet and gold," lakes that from under their wooded fringes gleam with an under soul and flash back their introverted glances of the stars from depths as pure as the heights of the down-gazing heavens—such lakes as you can take into your confidence and talk to in quiet hours as a lover talks to the image in a golden locket; bluer than the stainless heavens whose fierce sunlight falls upon their gentle waters.

Then we come to the Red River of the North, where the towns of Moorhead and Fargo are situated upon its banks. Surrounding these cities are the most wonderful wheat countries in the world, rich and luxuriant miles and miles of waving wheat may be seen, where twenty-four self-binding reapers ride side by side in harvest time, gathering in the golden grain. The fields are as level as a floor, while the sky above is the most beautiful blue, the wheat the most mellow of tints. Next are Valley City, planted in the midst of hills; Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, situated in the valley of the Missouri, surrounded by fair agricultural lands; Helena, the capital of Montana, with its gold and silver mines and reduction works; Butte, where more mineral wealth is annually produced than at any other spot in the world. On we go and soon we see Spokane Falls, with its beautiful cataract, forming the greatest water power on the Pacific coast. So we might keep on naming beautiful cities along this line, but will conclude with Tacoma on Puget sound, "City of Destiny," its terminus, which has many advantages over any other city on the western coast, being the largest wheat shipping port in the west, and also lies in a country rich in agricultural and mineral products.

The Northern Pacific runs through two of the greatest wheat-growing regions in the world. The first is the hard wheat belt in northern Minnesota and North Dakota, extending from about the center of Minnesota westward to the western boundary of North Dakota. This belt is 500 miles long and 300 miles wide and includes the famous valley of the Red River of the North, which ranks for fertility with the valleys of the Volga and the Danube in Europe. Here is produced the best wheat in the world, known as "No. 1 Hard," a variety that can be grown in no other part of the United States. This wheat



contains a larger percentage of gluten than any other and makes more flour to the bushel and better flour. The second great wheat-growing region tributary to the Northern Pacific is in Washington, where there is a stretch of rolling prairie 250 miles long by sixty miles wide, which produces regularly from thirty to fifty bushels to the acre of a soft white wheat and which has never failed in a crop. Most of this wheat goes to Liverpool by way of Tacoma. In Montana, wheat yields thirty to sixty bushels to the acre. Oats are extensively grown in Minnesota, North Dakota and Washington, yielding from twenty to fifty bushels to the acre. The Washington barley ranks, for malting purposes, with that raised in California. Another crop is potatoes, which are shipped from North Dakota as far east as Chicago and are of a quality unequaled in the east. Millet, rye, onions, peas, beets, cabbages and all other garden vegetables grow prolifically here. In several of the rich alluvial valleys of Washington hop growing is the chief industry, the average yield being from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds to the acre, against an average of 600 pounds in the hop districts of Wisconsin and New York. All the fruits of the temperate zone grow in Washington and also in some of the warm valleys of western Montana. In North Dakota small fruits and berries and hardy varieties of apples are grown. Dairying is becoming an important industry in Minnesota and North Dakota and numerous creameries are in successful operation.

All of Montana except the agricultural valleys and the wooded mountain ranges, a large part of western North Dakota and much of the Columbia basin in Washington and Oregon is essentially a grazing country and is occupied by large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. The principal grass is the bunch grass, which cures in the dry air of summer and furnishes food

all winter. This grass is the most nutritious known, having when dry the properties of both hay and grain. Cattle fatten on it more rapidly than on the blue grass of Kentucky or the buffalo grass of Nebraska or Colorado. Range cattle are not sheltered or looked after in winter. They run over the open country and pick up their living on the dried standing grass. Sheep are herded and kept in corrals during storms, but are out on the open ranges most of the winter. Nearly 100,000 head of range cattle are shipped to eastern markets every fall by the Northern Pacific. Sheep are shipped in large numbers from Montana and Washington to St. Paul and Chicago. The raising of horses is also a growing and profitable industry. No winter care is given them and when rounded-up in the spring they are found to be as fat as if they had been stabled and well fed all winter. Eligible unoccupied locations may still be found for engaging in any branch of the stock business. It is a safe, profitable and independent way of getting a living from the land.

Montana now leads all the states and territories in the production of gold, silver and copper, her annual output exceeding \$30,000,000. The principal mining camps are on the slopes of the main divide of the Rocky mountains, near Helena and Butte, and on the flanks of the Belt mountains and Bitter Root range. The recent construction of branch railroads penetrating the mining districts has given a new impetus to this important industry and new mines are constantly being opened up. Montana has at Marysville the greatest gold mine in the world and at Butte the great copper mine and at the Granite mountains the greatest silver mine. In northern Idaho, Coeur d'Alene mining districts, reached by a Northern Pacific branch, has come rapidly to the front as a great gold and silver region

and is only in the infancy of its development. In Washington, north of Spokane Falls, the Colville valley contains a number of rich silver mines and the Okanagon country, reached from either Wilber or Ellensburg, is rapidly developing as a silver and gold camp.

Nearly all the western North Dakota is underlaid with seams of lignite coal, which makes a valuable fuel for domestic use and for stationary steam engines. In Montana there are enormous deposits of bituminous coal on Rocky Fork, south of Billings, reached by a branch road from Laurel, on the Northern Pacific. Coal is extensively mined at Roslyn, Carbondale and other points; near the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific are the most productive mines on the Pacific coast, furnishing the railroad and the town with fuel and shipping large quantities to San Francisco, one mine producing coking coal exclusively and another gas coal. Iron ore is found at numerous points in Washington and will soon become the basis of an important industry. Lead abounds in Montana, Idaho and Washington; granite, limestone and sandstone for building purposes are quarried in many parts of Montana and marble has been discovered in Washington.

The pineries of northern Minnesota supply a large part of the lumber used in that state and in North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. The lumber resources of Washington are practically inexhaustible. The immense forest, which envelops Puget sound and covers the Cascade and Olympic mountains, is the finest body of timber in the world and is estimated to contain 160,000,000,000 feet; the principal growths are fir, spruce, pine, cedar, larch and hemlock. Lumber is shipped from Puget sound and from the Columbia river to California, Mexico, South America, China, Japan, Australia

and New Zealand and ship spars are sent to the navy yards of Europe.

The white fishing on Lake Superior is an important industry and the salmon fishing, at the mouth of the Columbia river in Oregon and Washington, is a business of such great dimensions that it supplies the civilized world with canned salmon. For varied, grand, romantic and peculiar scenery no journey of equal length compares with one over the Northern Pacific; at the eastern end of this transcontinental highway is Lake Superior, the greatest lake in the world; at the western end is the Pacific, the greatest ocean in the world; Puget sound, the most picturesque inland sea in the world, and the Columbia river the finest scenic river on the continent. No mountains on the Alps surpass in grandeur the gigantic solitary snow peaks of the Cascade range. In northern Minnesota are hundreds of small lakes as lovely as those of Scotland and Ireland. The Bad Lands of Dakota is a singular region where subterranean fires are still burning and where forests have been petrified and strata of blue clay converted into red scoriac. The Yellowstone National Park, reached by rail only by way of the Northern Pacific, is the wonderland of the world, attracting tourists from every part of the civilized globe to gaze upon its surprising geysers, its boiling mud pools, its cliffs of shining black obsidian, its profound canon, where the rocks have been painted by nature with rainbow colors and its inspiring Rocky mountain scenery. From Tacoma, the western terminus of the Northern Pacific, steamers make the round trip to Alaska in about two weeks—a distance of over 2,000 miles. This is beyond question the most superb marine excursion in the world, showing to the tourist the loftiest mountain peaks of the continent, glaciers, icebergs and beautiful locked bays, straits and

estuarier. The route is entirely between islands and the main land, so that, although the whole voyage is on salt water, there is no suffering from seasickness.

The advent of the Northern Pacific railroad six years ago as a competitor for through transcontinental business marked a new era in railway passenger service between the east and the Pacific coast. The most notable feature in connection with the train service inaugurated by this new line was the introduction of elegant dining cars, which were built at the Pullman car works, being marvels of luxuries and of the most elegant design and finish. In these cars the passenger sits down to a bountiful "spread," comprising all the delicacies of the season, on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as the fish and game obtained from the country through which the road passes.

Not content with the great improvements made in the past, the Northern Pacific railroad on May 1, 1889, put in service between St. Paul and Tacoma and Portland complete vestibuled passenger trains. These trains are equipped with the latest-improved automatic Westinghouse brakes, the Westinghouse air signal, Miller platform, patent steel-tired wheels and, in fact, every appliance and improvement in the railway service that will contribute to the safety, convenience and comfort of the traveler.

While making every effort to please the first-class and tourist travel, the Northern Pacific railroad has not been unmindful of the comforts of the intending settler destined to Montana, Idaho, Oregon or Washington and through express trains carry Pullman tourist sleepers and free colonist sleepers equipped with all the latest improvements.

The great Northern Pacific railroad is certainly one of the best and finest-equipped roads on the continent and has made



an elegant display in the palace of 1890 and has made many friends among the people of the greatest state in the Union, and we can only add, "Come, ye gifted of the land, and gaze upon the beautiful and elaborate display which she will undoubtedly make in the great palace of 1891."

The next booth is occupied by the Pi Beta Phi society of Ottumwa (formerly Ladies of the Iowa Chapter). Iowa Chapter, Theta, the decorations of which were made by the ladies of this society in this city and are very beautiful. All visiting members are cordially welcomed to this booth and all strangers' questions regarding the same pleasantly answered, except it be those pertaining to the secrets of the order. This bower of beauty and elegance is greatly admired by all lovers of esthetic decorations. The next exhibit we notice on this floor is the Lathrop museum and one of the most interesting in the gallery. From morning until night every day throngs of visitors crowd around this elegant collection of curiosities of all sorts, brought together through the efforts of Dr. Lathrop of the city of Ottumwa. All visitors unite in declaring it the very best exhibit in the palace. New features are being added every day and more space made, but even now it is, without doubt, the finest collection in southeastern Iowa. We cannot do justice to this exhibit in small space, but will hurriedly describe the most interesting features. The first is a large collection of mastodon bones by Dr. Lathrop, while Mr. Dahlberg of Keosauqua has a large case of rare curiosities collected by himself. S. A. Flagler of Ottumwa also has some very valuable minerals. A. M. Howland and L. S. Chichester make up the quota of large exhibits; besides, many others have handed in curiosities, and all together have succeeded in making it one of the finest collections in the state.

The Pueblo Indians are largely represented in one case and the toys and rattles constructed of clay would make the toy-makers of to-day open their eyes in wonder. Birds and beasts of every description with pebbles in them constituted the sole enjoyment of the Indian pappoose and no doubt had the desired effect which the rubber or tin rattle has at the present day. In this case are bits of pottery dug up from the mounds in different parts of the country and with them were strange and hideous idols of clay. The makers of these are supposed to be the Aztecs and truly they were a wonderful race of people. Hundreds of axes and arrow heads, from the long and broad war arrow to the small, needle-pointed one used for killing game. Some of the ax heads are beautiful, being double-edged with a neat hole in the center for the helve. The work of these wonderful people in stone can scarcely be believed. As we gaze on this exhibit made by Dr. Lathrop we see objects that seem to bring us face to face with this great race and we look upon the skulls of the Aztecs dug up from the mounds in a perfect state of preservation and only kept from crumbling by a thick coat of shellac outside and inside. There is also a fine collection of meteoric stones on exhibition and one is certainly a great curiosity. It consists of two stones welded together like old-fashioned bar-shot. Among the numerous petrifications are a hornet's nest perfect in form, a beet over six inches in diameter and a foot found seventy-three feet below the surface of the earth in a coal mine and supposed to be that of a deformed Aztec child. A whole forest of petrified woods is lying in these cases and snails and worms turned to stone can be counted by the score. A plaster cast of a big calendar found in Mexico is leaning against the wall and near it is a cast of another stone full of strange characters, found near

Fairfield. Then there is the first invention of the percussion-cap pistol, a small double-barreled affair with a knife blade projecting in front. Next to this is an old-fashioned flintlock pistol, while here in another case is a knife, once the property of the notorious Frank James, and two bowie knives carried by the Younger brothers. Hickory bows with sharp arrows hang on the wall and one of them has a sad story, as it was taken from the dead body of a white man in Kansas. Indian "quirts" or whips are also plentiful. The old Indian chief Powhatan is in profile on the wall, composed entirely of corn and arrow heads and no doubt favors him very much. The red man's love for "fire water" is well known and S. A. Flagler has a jug that preaches a wonderful temperance lesson to all visitors. It is made of clay and has shiny green snakes crawling all over it and even down the spout. It is enough to give anyone the delirium tremens to look at it.

Passing along we see something of still greater interest; it is an old silver pipe which the "Father of his country" once smoked. Near it is a large iron stirrup, once silver-plated, which the first President of the United States often had his foot in while riding over the state of Virginia, or on the battle-fields of the Revolutionary war. These articles have passed through but two hands since their noble owner died and are known to be genuine facts. Here we see a copy of the Ulster Co. (N. Y.) *Gazette*, containing Washington's obituary. A sword made entirely of Chinese money is another interesting curiosity and the weapons of the saw and sword-fish are worthy of notice. Charles Junkin of Fairfield, Jefferson county, also has a most interesting exhibit connected with the one of Dr. Lathrop.

A number of the best business firms in the city of Ottumwa are represented on the gallery floor of this building

with a most excellent showing; all kinds of goods are displayed in all the new and novel designs imaginable, which attract thousands to them every day.

The Des Moines Plating Works have an elegant display of their goods on exhibition, while a very wealthy firm of Chicago has several cases of exquisite jewelry, diamonds and watches displayed in a most tempting manner.

The Ottumwa *Courier* office in the extreme eastern portion of the building seems to catch the crowds every day and we find upon closer inspection that on an elegant hardwood table lies an open register, on whose pages thousands have written their names since the opening of the great black diamond structure; the names are published in the *Courier* every day and everybody buys the paper of course.

The Protect Each Other society of Ottumwa have a beautiful fairy grotto near the *Courier* office, the representation being as complete as one as the writer has ever seen—a perfect home for the fairies indeed. The initials, P. E. O., are made every day of fresh cut roses and are beautiful.

There are numerous other very pretty things on this floor, which we cannot possibly describe in this work, but in conclusion we will give a brief description of a trip over the Coal Mine route. Several friends and myself compose the party and we step into the mine shaft from the gallery floor of the palace. We are lowered slowly into the depths of the most novel mine either in our own or in a foreign country and after a few moments of indescribable agony we reach the bottom, where we alight and pass into the coal mine depot to await the coming of the mule train, in which we expect to travel through the mines; while discussing the eventful trip, a large door opens in front of us as if by magic and the most intelligent mule that

we have yet met with walks in with three carts in the rear. Being closely related to three conductors on the great "Q." route, they have always impressed me with this fact in traveling: "In cases of doubt always take the safe side," and if possible secure a seat in the middle of the car; but, woman-like, I forget their good advice and climb into the rear end of the middle cart, which flies up with me and sends me sprawling to the bottom of the coal-black mine. To say that I am for a moment bewildered hardly expresses my utter astonishment, while the rest of the party fairly scream with laughter and ask "Are you hurt?" I do not mind the joke, but gather myself up with the most extreme patience, while the docile mule waits, and make a second attempt to climb aboard that cart, which I accomplish, and take a seat in the middle of it. The rest of the party being comfortably seated by this time, the driver of the train shouts "All aboard!" and with a very melodious voice branches out on the greatest coal-mine song of the age, "Down in a Coal Mine Underneath the Ground," which he renders in the form of an anthem, until we reach our destination. This trip over the Coal Mine route is without doubt the most novel and interesting one that it has been our good fortune to experience; everybody rides free; no tickets, no passes, no mileage books, no annuals, no quarterlys, no free employes' tickets; therefore, the conductor is relieved of the duties imposed upon him by the "Duplex."

We pass in rapid succession the toiling miners, working here with pick and drill, who have not seen the sun nor even daylight perhaps for years, and our hearts go out to every coal miner in the state of Iowa, for we have realized for the first time in our lives the life of a man who earns the daily bread for himself and family in a coal mine underneath the ground. One



of our jolly party is acting as brakeman on this trip and the way he works the air and hangs the hose up in the dummy proves him an expert; but the poor mule! His name is Jordan and he has a hard road to travel and a heavy train, but steam keeps up pretty well and we pull into Coal Palace station on schedule time, the whole party expressing themselves as delighted with the trip. We are courteously assisted from the train and a noble-looking fellow of Swedish birth steps up and escorts us up a long, steep stairway leading to the first floor of the palace and informs us that he has had the pleasure of assisting over 40,000 people from this mine since the opening of the great industrial exposition. This coal mine is one of the most romantic features of the palace and our whole party will probably take another journey over the same route in 1891. I would say to all those who intend visiting the palace this fall, don't miss the rare treat of going over the Coal Mine route, and beware of accidents. In case of doubt always take the safe side.

We pass now to the elevator; it carries us to the dome of the palace, from which a most excellent view of the city of Ottumwa is obtained and also of the beautiful country surrounding; and as we look down on the picturesque Des Moines river, as it winds its way peacefully on toward the great Mississippi, our mind wanders back to the days when the Indian village of Moin-gui-na stood on its banks amid the forests centuries ago, and of what the future has brought forth from the regions of the morning unto this, the finest section of country on the American continent.

This magnificent black diamond structure will be thrown open again to the world about October 15 and every man, woman and child in Iowa should see it and all those from

other states who can possibly make it convenient to do so should come and look on the wonderful possibilities of art and nature combined in this beautiful structure. Ottumwa, the metropolis of southeastern Iowa, is lavish in her hospitality, so you will meet with cordial treatment during your sojourn in the city and your visit to the palace cannot help being a profitable one.

While Iowa may be proud of the name she bears in history, proud of her soil and climate, proud of her scenery, lovely brooks, lakes and rivers, proud of her palace, she is also proud of having the finest band in the Union—the Iowa State Band of Des Moines—the palace band—and I cannot lay this book aside and consider it finished without saying that the excellent music rendered by this band at the palace in Iowa in the year of 1890 was certainly the finest, without any exception, ever heard by people in any country on the globe and was fully appreciated by thousands and thousands who visited the palace, and we hope to have again the pleasure of listening to their excellent renditions in the palace of 1891.

Ottumwa has a combination of conditions and circumstances which can scarcely be ignored by anyone, but more especially the merchant and manufacturer, seeking a change of location and to each and all of such Ottumwa extends a warm invitation to come and investigate her claims; see her busy mills, filled with well-paid, contented workmen, the grand business structures stocked with goods from all parts of the world, the handsome streets, beautiful schools and churches, the cosy homes of the laboring classes; contentment and happiness are seen on all sides—a charmed circle, as it were, of happy, thrifty people. Ottumwa is entitled to the name of “Lowell” of the west; her factories and mills are many. Five lines of railways

run through or have their termini here and the sixth is in course of construction; the Santa Fe gives to the city as advantageous facilities for transportation as has any city in the Union. She has one of the finest water powers in the state and enjoys the further and still greater advantage of being in the very center of one of the greatest fields of bituminous coal lying between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and of a quality excelled by none.

PART FIFTH

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# NORTHWESTERN IOWA

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CORN PALACE REGIONS, WITH FULL AND COM-  
PLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE CORN PALACE,  
OR EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD.





## CHAPTER I.

### PIONEER PERIODS OF THE NORTHWEST.

In January, 1803, President Jefferson in a confidential message to congress in regard to Indian affairs took occasion to recommend, among other things, the organization of a party to trace the Missouri river to its source and thence proceed to the Pacific ocean. The recommendation was favorably considered and Capt. Merriwether Lewis was, on his own application, appointed to take charge of the expedition. William Clarke was subsequently associated with him, so that this celebrated expedition is known in our history as that of Lewis and Clarke.

The incidents of this long, tedious and romantic journey are worthy to be related as among the most interesting in the annals of American adventures. At that time all that vast region bordering on the upper Missouri and its tributaries, as well as the regions bordering on the Pacific, was unknown and unexplored by white men. By the latter part of 1803 the party comprising the expedition was ready to start.

Besides Captains Lewis and Clarke the party was made up of nine young men from Kentucky, twelve soldiers of the regular army, two Frenchmen as watermen and interpreters and a colored servant belonging to Capt. Clarke—twenty-six persons in all. A corporal, six soldiers and nine watermen in addition to the above were engaged to accompany the expedition as far as the country of the Mandans, as there was some apprehension of attacks by the Indians between Wood river

and that tribe. Three boats were provided for the expedition. The largest was a keel boat fifty-five feet long, drawing three feet of water, carrying one large, square sail and twenty-two oars. The other two were open boats, one of six and the other of seven oars.

The expedition started from the encampment at the mouth of Wood river on Monday, May 14, 1804. Capt. Lewis, who was at that time in St. Louis, joined the expedition at St. Charles, twenty-one miles up the river, which place they reached on the 16th. Here they remained until the 21st, when they proceeded on their voyage, reaching La Charnetts, the last white settlement, on the evening of the 25th. This village consisted of but seven poor families. On June 1 they arrived at the mouth of the Osage, 133 miles on their journey. The country bordering on this river was inhabited by a tribe known as the Osage Indians. They had a remarkable tradition among them as to the origin of their nation. They believed that its founder was a snail passing a quiet existence along the banks of the Osage till a flood swept him down to the Missouri and there left him exposed on the shore. By the heat of the sun he was changed to a man. The change, however, did not cause him to forget his native place, away up on the banks of the Osage, and he immediately sought his old home. Being overtaken with hunger and fatigue the Great Spirit appeared, gave him a bow and arrow and taught him to kill deer and prepare their flesh for food and their skin for clothing.

When he arrived at his original place of residence he was met by a beaver, who inquired who he was and by what authority he came to disturb his possession. The Osage replied that he had once lived on the border of that river and that it was his own home. While they were disputing the

daughter of the beaver appeared and entreated her father to be reconciled to the young stranger. The father yielded to her entreaties and the Osage soon married the beaver's daughter. They lived happily on the banks of the Osage and from them soon came the villages and nation of the Osages. Ever since they entertained a pious reverence for their ancestors, never killing a beaver, for by so doing they would slay a brother. It has been observed, however, that after the opening of the fur trade with the whites the sanctity of their maternal relations was very much reduced. '

The next tribe mentioned by the explorers was that of the Missouris, once a powerful nation but then reduced to about thirty families. They finally united with the Osages and Ottoes and as a separate nation became extinct. The Saukes, Ayauways (Iowas) and the Sioux are mentioned as being the enemies of the Osages and making frequent excursions against them. On June 16 they arrived at the mouth of the Kansas, 340 miles from the Mississippi, where they remained two days for rest and repairs. The party, at this stage of their journey, saw numerous buffaloes on the prairies. On July 2 the party passed Bear Medicine island, near which were the remains of an old fort built by the French, the ruins of the chimneys and general outline of the fortification being visible. On July 8 they reached the mouth of the Nodaway. The river is mentioned as navigable for boats some distance. On July 11 they landed at the mouth of the Nemaha. Mention is made of several artificial mounds on the Nemaha, about two miles up the stream at the mouth of a small creek. From the top of this mound there was a fine view of the country. On July 14 they passed the Nishnabatona river, finding it only 300 yards from the Missouri at a distance of twelve miles from its mouth.

Platte river and other streams both in Iowa and Nebraska are mentioned and the country described with great accuracy. Along in this part of the country were the first elk they had seen.

On July 22 the explorers encamped on the north (Iowa) side of the river, ten miles above the mouth of the Platte river, to make observations and to hold an interview with the neighboring tribes. They remained here in camp until the 27th. Among the streams mentioned in this vicinity are the Papillon, Butterfly creek and Moscheto creek, the last-named being a small creek near Council Bluffs. The Indians who occupied the country about the mouth of Platte river at this time were the Ottoes and Pawnees. The Ottoes were much reduced and formerly lived about twenty miles above the Platte, on the Nebraska side of the river. They lived at this time under the protection of the Pawnees. The latter were also much dispersed and broken. One branch of the nation formerly lived on the Republican branch of the Kansas river. Another band were the Pawnee Loupe, or Wolf Pawnees, who resided on the Wolf fork of the Platte; another band originally resided on the Kansas and Arkansas, but in their wars with the Osages they were often defeated and retired to the Red river. On the 27th they continued their journey and about ten leagues from their encampment on the south (Nebraska) side of the river they saw and examined a curious collection of graves or mounds of different heights, shapes and sizes. Some were of sand and others of both earth and sand. They were supposed to indicate the position of the ancient village of the Ottoes before they retired to the protection of the Pawnees. On the 29th they passed the spot where the Ayauway Indians, a branch of the Ottoes, once lived and who had emigrated from that place to the Des Moines. Mention is here made of an inter-

view with one of the Missouri Indians who lived with the Ottoes and the resemblance of his language to that of the Osages, particularly in calling a chief, *inca*.

On July 30 the party encamped on the south side of the river. At that place, next to the river, was a plain and back of it a wooded ridge, rising about seventy feet above the plain. At the edge of this ridge they formed their camp and sent an invitation to the Indians to meet them. From the bluffs at this point they mention a most beautiful view of the river and adjoining country. The latitude of the camp was determined by observation to be forty-one degrees, eighteen minutes and fourteen seconds. The messenger sent to invite the Ottoes returned on the evening of August 2 with fourteen Ottoa and Missouri Indians, accompanied by a Frenchman who resided among them and who acted as interpreter. Lewis and Clarke made them presents of pork, flour and meal and the Indians returned presents of watermelons. The next morning (August 3d) a council was held with the six chiefs who were of the party of Indians. They were told of the change in the government and promised protection and advised as to their future conduct. All the chiefs expressed their joy at this change in the government and wished to be recommended to the Great Father (the President) that they might obtain trade and necessaries of life. They asked the mediation of the Great Father between them and the Omahas, with whom they were then at war. At the conclusion of the council medals and other presents were given to the chiefs and also some presents to the other Indians who were with them. The grand chief of the Ottoes was not present, but to him was sent a flag, a medal and some clothing. The explorers gave to the place where this council was held the name of Council Bluffs. The



reader will remember, however, that it was above the present city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and was on the Nebraska side of the river.

On the afternoon of August 3 they resumed their journey and on the 7th arrived at the mouth of a river on the north side, called by the Sioux Indians "Eaneah wadepon" (Stone river) and by the French *Petite Riviere des Sioux*, or in English, Little Sioux river. The explorers were informed by their interpreter (M. Durion) that this river rises within about nine miles of the Des Moines; that within fifteen leagues of that river it passes through a large lake, nearly sixty miles in circumference and divided into two parts by rocks which approach each other closely. Its width is various, it contains many islands and is known by the name *Lac d'Esprit* (Spirit lake). The country watered by it is open and undulating and may be visited in boats up the river for some distance. The explorers speak of a long island, two miles above the mouth of the Little Sioux, which they named Pelican island—from the large number of pelicans which were feeding on it, one of which they killed. They also killed an elk. On the 10th they passed the first highland near the river after leaving their encampment at Council Bluffs. Not far from this, on a high bluff, was the grave of Blackbird, one of the great chiefs of the Mahas, who had died of small-pox four years before. The grave was marked by a mound, twelve feet in diameter at the base and six feet high and was on an elevation about 300 feet above the water. In the center of the grave was a pole, eight feet high. Near this the Mahas had a village and lost 400 men of their nation and a like proportion of women and children by small-pox at the time Blackbird died. After this dreadful scourge they burned their village which had consisted

of 300 cabins. On a hill at the rear of the place where the village stood were the graves of the nation.

On the evening of the 18th the explorers were again visited at their camp by a party of Ottoes and Missouris, who entertained them with a dance. The profound object of their visit was to ask intercession for promoting peace between them and the Mahas, but probably the real object was to share a portion of the strangers' provisions and liquors.

The next day, August 20, after passing a couple of islands, they landed on the north side of the river, under some bluffs. It was here that the party had the misfortune to lose one of their men, Sergeant Charles Floyd. He had the day before been seized with a bilious colic. Before his death he said to Capt. Clarke, "I am going to leave you; I want you to write me a letter;" soon after making this request the brave soldier passed away.

He was buried on the top of the bluff with all the honors due a brave soldier. The place of his interment was marked by a cedar post on which his name and the day of his death were inscribed. About a mile farther up on the same side of the Missouri they came to a small river to which they gave the name of Floyd river, in honor of their deceased companion. The place of the burial of Sergeant Floyd was but a short distance below where Sioux City now stands. During a great freshet in the spring of 1857 the Missouri river washed away a portion of the bluff, exposing the remains of the soldier. The citizens of Sioux City and vicinity repaired to the place, and with appropriate ceremonies re-interred them, some distance back from the river on the same bluff. The same cedar post planted by his companions over his grave on that summer day more than half a century before remained to mark the

place of interment up to 1857, though nearly all of this time the country had been inhabited only by savages. All that goes before—it would make a chapter of a romantic story—relates to the time of pure adventure in the northwest rather than to its substantial development. It includes the day of exploration, of the French voyageur, of the trader and the trapper.

The first account of the visit of white men to Woodbury county in northwest Iowa, is that of the famous expedition of Lewis and Clarke, mentioned above, in 1804.

In the summer of 1848, a single pioneer, William Thompson, settled at Floyd's bluff, his brother and another man joining him in the fall. Next year he laid out a town there, calling it Thompsonville. Thompson's cabin was the sole improvement, but on the organization of the county in 1853, the ville was made the county seat, and it was a sort of post for Indian traders for some years. Not a vestige of Thompsonsville now remains.

In May, 1849, Theophili Brughier, a French Canadian, settled at the mouth of the Big Sioux, two miles above the original city, but now within the city limits, the most beautiful spot in the northwest and known as Riverside park. Brughier had been in the employ of the American Fur company, but leaving them and joining the Yankton Sioux Indians he married the daughter of their celebrated chief War Eagle. He acquired great influence among the Indians and War Eagle died at his home in 1851. The remains of the old chief, with those of his daughter, Brughier's wife, and several others of the family, now repose on the summit of a lofty bluff near the mouth of the Big Sioux river, within the present limits of Sioux City.

The next two settlers of 1849 were Robert Perry, who settled on the creek which bears his name, flowing now through

the heart of the city, and Paul Pacquette, who settled on the Big Sioux. In the spring of 1852 Joseph Leonias purchased of Brughier the quarter-section on which the business portion of Sioux City is now built.

There was no further improvement until 1854 when Dr. John R. Cook, who had a contract under the government to survey a part of northwestern Iowa, landed here. Refusing to be intimidated by a band of Indians under Smutty Bear, their chief, who were encamped here, Dr. Cook, impressed with the importance of the site and the beauty of the surroundings, boldly located a claim, as did several of his own party, and began to lay out Sioux City in December, 1854. Dr. Cook's claim and the original town site lay on the west side of Perry Creek, but the next spring he purchased of Joseph Leonias his quarter-section and laid out Sioux City, east addition.

It would require more space than there is at command to chronicle the events of the next few years. Indians frequently passed through the town in war paint and uttered whoops, sometimes admonishing the settlers to leave, but no violence or bloodshed occurred. In the spring of 1855 there were two log cabins on the site of Sioux City. In July of this year the first stage and mail arrived; Dr. Cook was the first postmaster. Before the close of 1855 there were seven log houses, two of them hotels. There were two stores, one in a tent and the other in a log cabin. A land office was opened for pre-emption, but not for sale till May, 1857. The county seat was removed here from Floyd's Bluff or Thompsonville in 1856. Sioux City was incorporated by an act of the legislature, approved January 16, 1857, and the first city election took place August 31, 1857. The first newspaper was edited by Seth W. Swiggett. It was called the *Sioux City Eagle* and was first issued July 4, 1857.

The first steamboat freighted for Sioux City arrived in June, 1856, bringing provisions and ready-framed houses. The base of supplies was then, and for years after, St. Louis and transportation was by way of the Missouri river. The commanding commercial relation of Sioux City to the great northwest, even at that early day, was clearly perceived, since from it as a depot freights were distributed by water carriage to the trading posts, government stations and scattered settlements of the upper Missouri valley. During 1856 the population increased to 400 and about ninety buildings were erected.

It must be remembered that this was before the day of railroad development west of the Mississippi river. Two or three weak lines had been constructed for short distances west of that river, but their progress was slow. The Pacific railroads were yet far in the future. Chicago, even, was yet in its day of small things and the settlement of the upper Mississippi valley, from which Chicago later fed its majestic strength, was only in its beginning. The upper Missouri valley, opening above Sioux City, was still a primeval wilderness, still to be disputed over with the countless bands of Indians and herds of buffaloes which roamed over it.

But Sioux City grew steadily with the westward extension of settlement. It is needless now to recount the various stages of growth by which in 1868, the advent of the first railroad, it reached a population of 1,030. This was the day of the steamboat, the stage, the freighters' wagon. While these things remained many years after the opening of the first railroad, notably during the four years beginning with 1875, when the Black Hills mines were discovered, yet the advent of the railroad in 1868 revolutionized the movement of trade through Sioux City to the northwest, finally fixing the base of supply at



Chicago instead of at St. Louis. The change marked a new era in the history both of Sioux City and the northwest. It involved for them an ampler and more energetic development.

But the material fact indicated by the history of the old era, as well as of the new, is the commercial identity of Sioux City with the upper Missouri valley, whether the distribution of supplies was effected from St. Louis or from Chicago as the base.

#### SIoux CITY, THE PRIDE OF NORTHWEST IOWA.

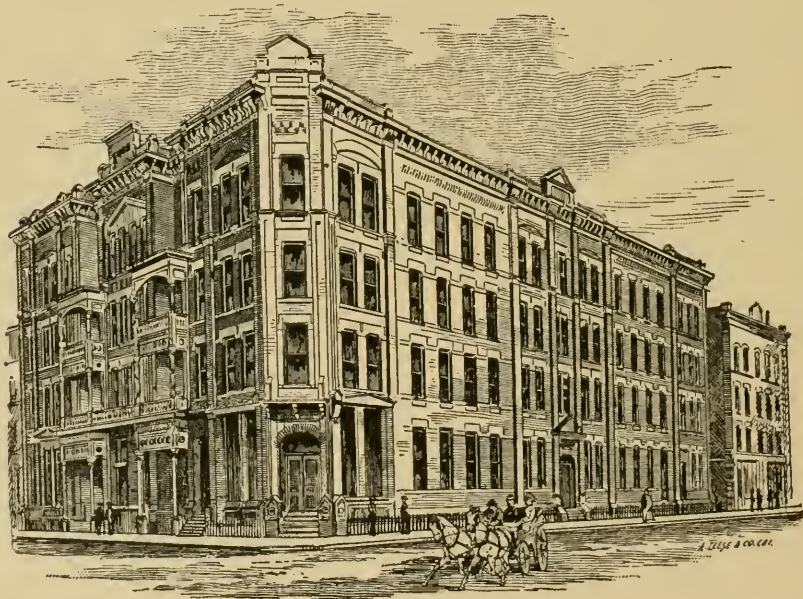
On the sight of Dr. Cook's claim in 1854, and the addition thereto since made, there is now a city of 50,000 inhabitants. Such change from a pioneer settlement to a commanding trade center is a transition which could occur only in the west.

It is not the intention here to describe in detail the Sioux City of to-day, but rather to reserve space for some exposition of the logic of its situation. A few representative facts, however, may be briefly summarized.

The Sioux City of the railroad epoch, beginning in 1868, when the Sioux City & Pacific railroad was opened to Missouri Valley, seventy miles south, making connection there with an east and west railroad, shared the rising enthusiasm of the northwest and grew steadily.

During the next few years enterprising men projected lines of road into the region about Sioux City northwardly, with a view to ultimate connection with the Northern Pacific northwesterly through southern Dakota and directly west through northern Nebraska from the opposite shore of the Missouri. Nearly all these routes have since been occupied by trunk or branch lines radiating from Sioux City, but then there was success in building only a few spurs, when

railroad enterprise was smitten with the general industrial paralysis which followed the great failure of Jay Cooke & Co. in 1873. But Sioux City grew steadily; it had a population of 4,290 in 1875 and the federal census of 1880 showed an increase to 7,366 inhabitants. The state census of 1885 fixed the population at 19,060 and a census taken eighteen months later,



HOTEL GARRETSON, SIOUX CITY.

including territory since added by the extension of the corporate limits, showed a population of 26,000. The notable growth of Sioux City, it will be seen, has been since 1880 and in fact 20,000 of the 50,000 of its present population have been drawn hither since 1882.

Sioux City to-day is the center of five great trunk lines of railway, which have thirteen main and branch lines diverging hence through northern Iowa, southern Minnesota, Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. These companies have a machine shop here and a railroad bridge across the Missouri river, costing \$1,250,000, is approaching completion. Thirty-six passenger trains arrive and depart daily.

The largest jobbing center in Iowa and also the largest jobbing center in the great northwest, filling its own distinct field and competing with Omaha on the one hand and Minneapolis and St. Paul on the other. All the principal lines of jobbing are represented. The sales for 1887 amounted to over \$8,500,000. Two hundred commercial travelers represent the city in the tributary territory. While within half a decade population has quadrupled, business has increased eightfold.

The total expenditure for building improvements during 1887 on a careful and accurate basis of ascertainment was \$2,854,856; for 1886, \$1,292,528; for 1885, \$1,024,471; for 1884, \$980,395; for 1883, \$660,949; for 1882, \$637,324.

There are nine banking houses, with a capital of \$2,000,000, which in 1887 sold exchange to the amount of \$57,000,000, a banking interest exceeding that of any other city in Iowa. The postal receipts in 1887 were \$46,017, against \$32,211 in 1886, while the money-order business was \$954,345.46, and increase of 30 per cent. over 1886. The telegraph business is the largest in the northwest, there being a remarkable increase during the past two years, while the business of the three express companies represented here has trebled during the same period.

Sioux City is one of the five greatest packing centers in the United States. There are three great packing establish-

ments—those of Bouge, Silberhorn and Fowler. These have a capacity of 15,000 hogs and 2,000 beeves per day. In addition, it is practically assured that one of the largest dressed beef establishments in the world will be built here during the present year.



UNITED BANK BUILDING, SIOUX CITY.

The stock yards, in the vicinity of which the packing-houses are situated, are one of the most important factors in Sioux City's growth. They grew out of the concentration here of live stock transactions and, though founded less than three years ago, they have accommodations for 6,000 hogs, 10,000 cattle, 2,000 sheep and 2,000 horses. Over \$750,000 was expended last year in improving this property and extensive



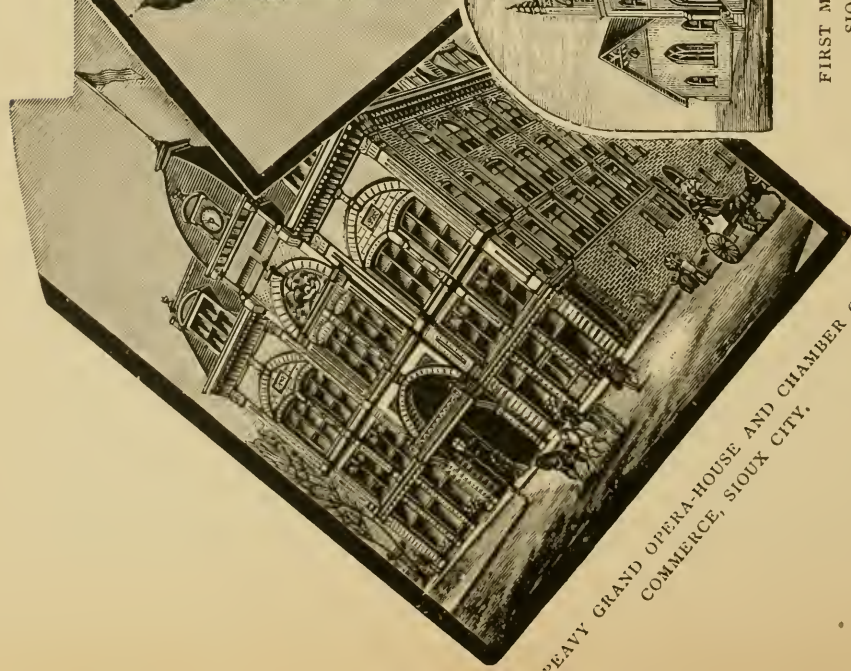
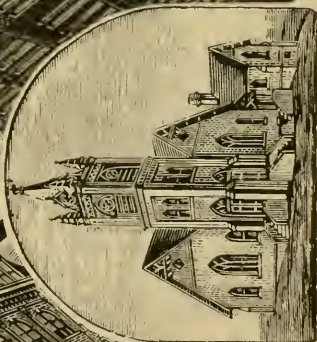
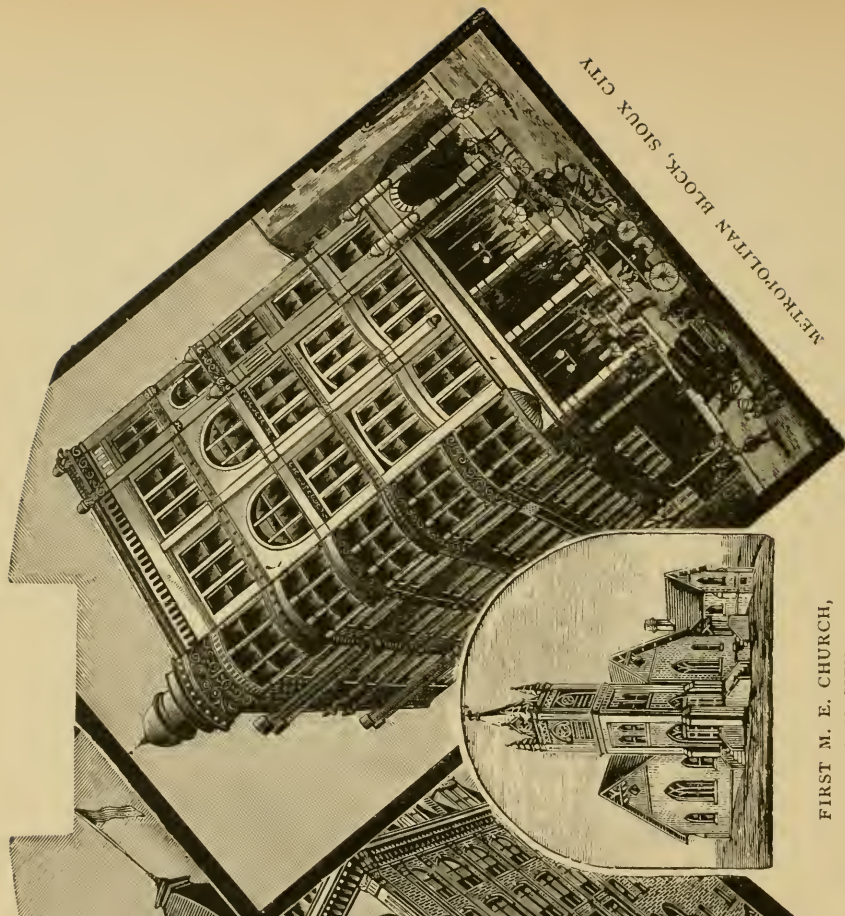
improvements are being made all the time. The yards include 1,490 acres of suburban land and 200 city lots. In addition to the packing establishments, which give employment to hundreds of men, there are the linseed oil mills, the second largest in the world, flour mills, foundries, machine shops, candy and cracker factory, oatmeal mill, brick and tile works, plow works, vinegar and pickling works, etc.

The public improvements are in harmony with Sioux City's progressive character and yet so rapid is its growth that they are in rear of the public demand. In 1887 nearly \$1,000,000 was expended in improvements of a purely public character and a much larger sum will be expended this year.

The city has sixty miles of graded streets, fifteen miles of cedar block paving, fourteen miles of street railway and five of motor line in operation, five miles of cable car line and five miles of new motor line in construction and is located between three rivers, affording admirable drainage. This healthful situation is made perfect by the modern system of sewage. Here are the finest waterworks in the northwest, consisting of two Holly-Gastel patent pumps of 4,000,000 gallons daily capacity, with reservoir of 1,500,000 gallons capacity and twenty-one miles of mains.

Sioux City has a paid, professional fire department, one of the finest opera-houses in the west, the largest telephone exchange in Iowa, gas and electric light, etc., four daily—one morning and three evening—papers, besides a variety of weekly and other periodicals, an unrivaled system of public education, churches of all denominations, benevolent and charitable organizations, public library, Young Men's Christian Association building, Samaritan Home (hospital), maintained by the Women's Christian Association, etc., etc., Sioux City Jobbers





& Manufacturers' Association, maintaining a salaried commissioner of freights, and the Chamber of Commerce Association.

Such are only a handful of facts chosen from a multitude of others because they are representative facts. From them may be inferred some idea of Sioux City as it is.

Sioux City is situated at the point where the Missouri river makes the great bend to the west, just as at Kansas City it makes the great bend to the north. Precisely at Sioux City the drainage systems of northwestern Iowa, northern Nebraska and the whole of southern Dakota converge. The Big Sioux river from due north, forming the boundary line between Iowa and Dakota, joins the Missouri and the angle thus formed includes the west and south boundaries of the corporate limits of Sioux City. From its confluence with the Sioux river the Missouri flows over 100 miles from almost due west, forming the boundary line between Dakota and Nebraska. The whole of the southeastern quarter of Dakota is drained by the James and Vermilion rivers and innumerable smaller streams which flow almost due south, parallel to the Sioux, their fertile valleys debouching upon the Missouri at short distances above Sioux City. The drainage of northern Nebraska is the exact counterpart of that of southern Dakota, the Niobrara flowing northeast and joining the Missouri, where it ceases to be the boundary line between Nebraska and Dakota, while from that point to Sioux City scores of minor streams flow northerly and northeasterly through Nebraska to a confluence with the Missouri. On the Iowa side the whole northwestern quarter of the state, with a portion of Minnesota, is drained into the Missouri at Sioux City, the Sioux river at its mouth forming its western boundary, as before stated, the Floyd river passing through the

city limits and the Little Sioux entering the Missouri at no great distance below.

Remember now that the trade territory of Sioux City in northwestern Iowa alone is 8,000 square miles, draining naturally, as in trade, to this point. Remember that southern Dakota, which opens northwesterly from Sioux City as a gate, includes 60,000 square miles, while due west of Sioux City there is in northern Nebraska 26,000 square miles. Here is a territory of 94,000 square miles which centers naturally at Sioux City. And let it be borne in mind, moreover, that this territory, immense as it is, is only part of the territory now actually occupied or reached by Sioux City's trade.

To illustrate its importance and immensity, attention need only be called to the fact that just west of the Missouri river, after it again turns north at a point 100 miles west of Sioux City, lies the great Sioux Indian reservation, a splendid agricultural and grazing region, of which 16,000 square miles, an area of incomparably richer natural resources than any one of a dozen states of the Union, which might be mentioned, has been opened by congress to settlement.

The drainage of this region flows almost due east into the Missouri, and along the valleys of these tributary streams two great corporations—the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Chicago & Northwestern—are hastening to build into the wonderful mineral and cattle regions beyond, carrying the fruits of the same over their main systems to Sioux City, and, on the other hand, from it as the distributing point, supplying them and the thousands of settlers who have flocked into that territory.

But the significant fact is that so vast a country as this Sioux reservation opened to development is only a fraction of

Sioux City's trade territory, bound up in a common interest with it alike by the artificial systems of communication and the outlines and conformation of the country. This is why there is a city where Sioux City stands to-day.

Among immediate causes, what most of all has made Sioux City great? The soil of the region surrounding it. What is the soil? Those properties which make it the greatest corn section, not only in the United States but in the world. Take the territory about Sioux City, including northwestern Iowa and the adjacent land in southern Dakota and northern Nebraska within a radius of 100 miles, extending indefinitely upward along the flood plains of the Missouri river and its tributaries, and the United States may be challenged for another region equaling or approaching this as a corn country, and, for the same reasons which make it a corn country, it is surpassingly fruitful in all the substantial cereals and other agricultural products.

This is the pre-eminent corn country of the continent, because it has never had from any cause a failure of corn. Drought and excessive moisture do not disastrously affect it, as they do the corn-fields of other sections of country. The crowning felicity of the Sioux City corn-field, the pre-eminent excellence of the northwestern soil, is not merely its extraordinary fertility, but also its average availability for agricultural purposes, year after year. The peculiar character of the soil of northwestern corn-fields makes it much more easy and far less expensive to cultivate, to plow, to plant, to tend the crop.

Northwestern Iowa is not only a vast corn-field but an enormous hog-pen as well, and it is a cattle country because it is a corn country. The steer and the hog go together and both



together form the close-fitting halves of a machine for working up and condensing the raw material of the corn-field.

There are twenty counties in northwestern Iowa which are within the assured range of Sioux City's trade, and less than one-third of the northwestern corn region, which includes as well the adjacent portions of southeastern Dakota and northeastern Nebraska, lying on both sides of the Missouri river, west of Sioux City. The northern edge of the corn belt is only a few tiers of counties north and thence its boundary line curves around Sioux City southwesterly in Dakota and Nebraska. This is the great body of the distinctively corn country and, although the boundary line is not regular, it is located at no great distance, relatively speaking, west and northwest from Sioux City, except along river valleys, which of course extend it in narrow strips considerably beyond the general western limit. Sioux City thus is in the corner of the northwestern corn country, while the rich corn-fields are carried indefinitely east and south across the state of Iowa.

If there were space, it would be interesting to pause here and consider in detail the building of railroads in the upper Missouri valley and their centralization at Sioux City. The extraordinary and absolutely unparalleled development of this vast region, with whose growth and destiny the growth of Sioux City is indissolubly bound up, has been conditioned upon the building of railroads as well as upon the marvelous richness of its soil, for by the former the fruits of the latter are made available and the rapid tendency to lower rates of transportation, especially during the past ten years, has had the effect to bring the cheap, rich lands of the northwest practically as near the seaboard markets as the high-priced and exhausted lands of the east. Thus Sioux City is the point of convergence of



five great railroad systems, viz., the Illinois Central, the Chicago & Northwestern, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, and the Sioux City & Northern. The Sioux City & Pacific, the first road to reach Sioux City in 1868, is now a part of the Chicago & Northwestern system.

The men of Sioux City from the very first have been instant in all the great enterprises—public and private—which in their combined result have now established its commercial primacy in the upper Missouri valley according to the natural indications of the same. Throughout the entire series of achievements tending to this end Sioux City itself has taken the initiative and, acting on the faith which it had in itself, has established itself in the faith of the world, thereby bringing in the co-operation of the capital and enterprise of the east and enlisting the aid of the great railroad corporations and other concerns which have done so much for Sioux City. There is not, and never has been, division of council, faction or jealousy in Sioux City, but in the presence of opportunity for public enterprise all citizens of all classes have fused in enthusiastic harmony, whether the proposition was a tax in aid of a railroad, to build a bridge, to insure machine shops or for any other important work. It is this public-spirited harmony, under the direction of a few far-seeing and intrepid citizens—men who have themselves voluntarily assumed great burdens and risks in the common cause,—that has accelerated the destiny which Sioux City's natural relations to the upper Missouri valley marked out for it. By such independent endeavor nearly every trunk line of railroad, and most of the branch lines, now converging here were secured; thus the opera-house; thus the great hotel; thus the first of the machine shops; thus many of

the important commercial and manufacturing interests. But the most notable fruits of this policy have been within the period of the last three years, during which were secured these capital achievements—the railroad bridge across the Missouri, the great packing establishments, three new branch lines of railroad and one trunk line and the most wonderful corn palace on the face of the globe.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE WONDER OF THE NEW WORLD.

Where the Indian used to roam  
Now the white man finds a home,  
And the tepee is no more  
On the lower "Muddy's" shore.  
Where the Big Sioux river flows,  
Now a city thrives and grows,  
But the famous yellow maize  
Has outlived the Indian's days.  
And each coteau, plain and hill  
Yields the golden kernels still,  
And the pale-face by the Sioux  
Offering makes to Manitou,  
After every harvest moon,  
For this never-failing boon.  
And he apes the Indian's ways  
With a temple built of maize,  
Under whose palatial wing  
Wam-na-he-za reigns as king.  
And War Eagle on the hill  
In his sleep has visions still,  
And he sees the palace rise  
Upward to the sun-kissed skies.  
And the famous Indian brave  
Mutters softly in his grave  
Just as if he understood:  
"Wano! Wano! It is good!"

'Twas in the year 1890, and time was rapidly hastening or toward the hazy days of autumn, and King Corn reigned supreme throughout the regions of the great northwest. Already the song of the reapers has died away and from afar are caught faint murmurs—voices of the merry huskers. Only

a few short years ago this now haughty monarch bowed to Cotton who proclaimed in clarion tones, "I am king!" but now it is his turn to bow in silent humility, while King Corn calls upon the entire world to come and view his grandeur and his greatness.

At one time, it was in the United States alone that he held indisputable sway, but, feeling that he had not room enough even in that wide domain to use all the golden ears that grow upon his princely estate, he has erected a palace each year in honor of his greatness, which exceeds in wonder and fantastic beauty all other palaces and so mystifies the beholders that they imagine they are gazing upon some of those enchanted creations of which they have read in the "Arabian Nights." At this palace he holds a yearly carnival and, as all people from the highest to the lowest have been fed from his beneficent bounty, so all classes from the chief executive to the common laborers of the land have feasted their wearied eyes—hungry for something new, something unique, as well as beautiful—upon the magic beauty of this palace of palaces.

In unbroken stream the people come—from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, from the warm gulf and the frozen zones, from all parts of the greatest republic on earth, which, some one has said, is "bounded on the north by the aurora borealis, on the east by the rising sun, on the south by the southern cross and on the west by the setting sun." Nor does King Corn's fame cease here. From across the seas come calls for pictures of the famous castle. To Europeans and people of other nations who had only the meager variety of white bread for the rich and brown bread for the peasants, the use of corn for food is of especial importance. They have learned, too,

something of artistic designs. Even Paris, that city rich in original fancies and artistic decorations at her last exposition, copied the design of a corn palace, which is a purely western product.

The site of this temple of agriculture is the best that could possibly be found for it in all the world. It is near the land of the Dakotas, which Longfellow has made famous in his sweet poem, "Song of Hiawatha."

In the land of the Ojibways,  
In the pleasant land and peaceful  
Sing the mysteries of Mondamin,  
Sing the blessings of the corn-fields.

It is situated in the western part of that state which leads all others in the production of corn, Iowa. It is in its beauty on the banks of that muddy river which gathers its waters from the snow-clad heights of the Rockies and grows from a laughing rivulet to a slowly-moving stream, the Missouri. And last, but not least, it is located in that city, the people of which "have a way of their own" and the inhabitants never grow to be old fogies.

In 1888 President and Mrs. Cleveland pronounced the corn palace the only new thing they had seen in their trip through the eastern and western states. The eloquent orator, Chauncey Depew, grew enthusiastic over it. But the glory of that palace is as faint as the shadow of a dream compared to the gorgeousness of the palace of 1890. When the idea of the fourth corn palace was first suggested it was scouted by a great many people who supposed they were astute thinkers. Their objections were many; some as follows: "You can get nothing new." "The fundamental idea has been exhausted." "The people must be tired of it." But these were all overcome. A new



architect was engaged, an entirely new design was selected, twice as large as any of the previous buildings. Then was raised the objection that it could never be filled and decorated, but it became a puzzle to economize room so as to have enough for the applications which came pouring in for space, and in spite of its vast dimensions the artists found no difficulty in decorating the building.

While the completed corn palace embodied an original idea of satisfying and comprehensive significance, it is not to be understood that there was at the start definite and complete consciousness of the idea. It rather grew with the making of the corn palace. The decorative possibilities of the corn plant and of the other products of the Sioux City corn-field, far from being understood at the outset, were not even dreamed of.

The working out of the details of the corn palace itself, the discovery of the artistic possibilities of the corn plant and the sudden inspiration which was born of such discovery, were things which came later, came in the work of building. An Aphrodite sprang from the ocean's foam; so when the effort was once begun to represent the beneficence of the typical product of the northwestern field dawned the realization of its artistic resources.

An abundant harvest was ripening in the royal domain, when some one in Sioux City suggested the idea of the holding of a harvest festival and corn jubilee in honor and recognition of the bounteous gift. That hint, vague and undefined as it was, sufficed to stir the spirit of enterprise in Sioux City breasts. It was the virile germ of a grand event. Then followed a more deliberate and practical consideration of the scheme. A committee of Sioux City business men was designated to take the matter in charge and effect an operative organization.

When a committee is appointed in Sioux City, it may be remarked, a foregone conclusion is that something is going to be done. Such an appointment, even by an informal body like the early festival meetings, is not a mere honorary distinction to be treated lightly or ignorantly altogether by the appointee. It is a business transaction and exact duty is required of all. This fact is alluded to as a characteristic of Sioux City.

Another distinguishing trait of the citizens of Sioux City is the merging of the individual into the municipal whole when credit or profit is accorded by the public. In the present instance the distinction of originating the corn palace is accorded to "the people."

Before undertaking a description of the decorations, without which the palace would have been an ungainly pile of rough materials, an idea of the magnitude of the labor and wealth expended thereon is imparted by giving some of the builder's estimates. There were 400,000 feet of lumber consumed, 15,000 bushels of yellow corn and 5,000 bushels of variegated varieties, 500 pounds of carpet tacks, 3,000 pounds of nails, 1,500 pounds of small brads, 2,500 feet of rope, 500 pounds of small wire and 3,500 yards of cloth. It took forty-six men six weeks to erect the palace and nearly 300 men and women to place the decorations in form. Ten teams were employed ten weeks in hauling the corn and grain. Two steam saws were engaged constantly eight days cutting corn ears into small pieces for decorative signs and ornamental work. Besides this labor is all that was done by farmers in delivering grains from their own stocks. The total cost of the palace, not including a vast amount of labor and material gratuitously contributed, was about \$30,000.

About twenty counties of northwestern Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska have exhibits. The states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have splendid showings of their



SIoux CITY'S CORN PALACE.

products, which are in striking contrast to those of the northwest.

The corn palace of 1890 fronts on Sixth street and west on Pierce street. Each front is 250 feet in length and the south-

west corner is cut to a face sixty feet wide. The building is merely a frame inclosed with boards, but has been made tight to turn rain and protect visitors in any weather. It has the appearance of a square from the outside, but the interior is finished in the form of an octagon.

The main wall is forty-two feet high and from it the roof rises in a pyramid, the apex of which—116 feet above the ground—is truncated and upon which is placed a globe forty-five feet in diameter. This globe is really the base of the central tower and over it, as another part of the tower, is placed a framework which forms an immense crown. The crown is supposed to be that of King Corn. Its height above the ground is 196 feet. Just beneath it is the globe, every geographical feature being wrought out in various colors of corn. The sections of corn sawed lengthwise are nailed on. Thus the oceans are represented as a dark expanse by sections of blue squaw corn, which, viewed from the street, seem a solid mass.

The continents stand out in bright yellow and the lake and other prominent features are made distinct.

These decorations will suggest somewhat the methods followed in adorning the exterior. The architect has so designed the building that the towers, turrets, gables and other elevations rising above the walls and projecting outward present ample and varied fields for the artist's ingenuity. Corn is the main material, but all the grasses and grains are also used. The interior is decorated with even greater skill. A gallery projects from the walls to a distance of twenty-six feet and a height of twenty feet above the ground floor. The diameter of the interior, measuring from face to face of the gallery, is 110 feet. Eight great pillars sustain the roof and over this central space are thrown trusses which support the dome. The whole

interior is decorated with the products of the soil. A pretty effect is produced by entwining the pillars with great wreaths of evergreens and grains.

The ceiling is covered with oats, heads down, and millet and flax. Everywhere are designs wrought out in these materials. One of the most striking features of the decorations this year is the working out of pictures in grains. A frame is first made and crossed with cloth, upon which the sketch is made in crayon. The outlines are then filled in with suitable materials and the result is a picture of astonishing effects of color. One of these pictures represents a tally-ho coach party. The white horses are represented by hulled millet; the dark by flax and turnip seed. The tails and manes are made of corn silk and the harness is made of husks. The various parts of the coach are made of grains of corn of various colors, the main body of a dark mahogany color and the windows of husks. Similar materials are employed to represent the driver and the figures on top of the coach, every detail being brought out with surprising accuracy. There are scores of similarly-wrought pictures, landscapes, groups, marines, etc. One feature is a cascade; it is a sheet of water fifteen feet wide, having the appearance of flowing through a gorge and terminates in a fall of thirty feet, breaking at last in silvery spray and collecting below in snowy flecks of foam, forming at the foot of the cataract a large lake, in which is mirrored in tenfold loveliness all the enchanting scene. Twinkling in its lucid depth will gleam the reflections of thousands of incandescent and arc lights. For group above group, to the very edge of the cataract, will glow these starry lights, giving to the falling waters and golden mists a brilliant sheen which will dazzle the mind with its bewildering beauty. The light of the sun



will never strike you here, but far above all this gleams star-shaped lights that will add much to the unparalleled splendor. When the eye grows sated with all this grandeur, there opens to the pleasure-seeker cool caves, as natural and secluded as though far from the haunts of men, and grottoes so real that almost instinctively you will look for the fairy wood-nymph that reigns in that sequestered spot; do not be startled if she should really appear in all her nymphean etherealism and minister to you. On every side are seen the cereals. Corn predominates, but the smaller grains also enter largely into the decorations. On the outside the ear is mostly used, cut both lengthwise and crosswise, and here the designs require something more minute and the kernel is more extensively used. These are arranged in geometrical and artistic designs, which at a distance rival in their iridescent splendor the finest of the ancient mosaics.

The many colors of the cereals permit an endless variety of design which will astonish those uninitiated in the mysteries of the decorative art. Tapestries and festoons that delight the eye seem all too magnificent to be composed of so seemingly common materials. The various exhibits are a revelation to many. We learn in geography that Iowa and the surrounding states produce corn, wheat, oats, etc., but you can have no conception of the great value of these products and the wealth that they represent till you see them in the multitudinous forms which are here presented. South Dakota has an exhibit which conveys to the hitherto incredulous ones a true idea of the vast resources and possibilities of the Dakotas. Three of the largest railroads in Sioux City have excellent exhibits of the products all along their lines and when a wealthy corporation attempts such an exhibition there can be no possible

question but that there will be something worth seeing. The main room glows as with living light, the walls blossom with fairy forms, seemingly endowed with life, so vivid is the imagery, so lifelike the tints. You have seen flowers spring to bloom before you and you have seen the crowded gallery supported by its graceful columns and festooned in myriads of garlands that reflect the light in mellow rays of softest radiance.

You may, perchance, turn to go, thinking you have exhausted the wonders of the veritable fairy land, but you have not ascended to the dome from which the radiant scene looks still more lovely. And, hark! as you turn strains of more than earthly sweetness are wafted on the perfume-laden air, and, listening, the music swells and becomes martial in its character. No need to ask whence it comes. The throng already presses toward the auditorium on the east side of the building. As you value your reputation as a musical critic do not ask who are the creators of this soul-stirring harmony. All the traveling, music-loving public know that nothing on either side of the great ocean could produce such melody other than the world-renowned Elgin Military band. At an immense cost the services of this band have been secured, with their leader, Prof. J. Hecker, who is a native of Nausau, Germany, and a natural musician. At ten years of age he was first violinist in the orchestra of his native town and at the age of fifteen he was director of the same. When about twenty years of age he went to England. When the Elgin band secured his services he resigned his position as director of the Eighty-Second British Parliament, Prince of Wales Volunteers. This famous band has played in many places and is an especial favorite with the American people. Among the places which

they have visited are the corn palace of 1888, the mineral palace at Pueblo, the Milwaukee exposition and the spring palace at Ft. Worth. At the last-named place they had the misfortune to have their instruments burned, but at an expense of \$15,000 they have all been replaced by new ones whose tones harmonize even more perfectly than the old ones. With its already well-earned fame, its permanent membership and a leader who is a social as well as a musical success and who has demonstrated his ability to direct so perfectly this organization, this band cannot fail to fulfill all its bright promises for the future. Its repertoire now consists of more than 6,000 pieces, including those from such classical composers as Liszt, Wagner, Strauss, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Handel. While the connoisseurs delight in the rendition of such famous selections, they do not forget the more simple melodies which are so dear to every true American citizen and the soldiers are again inspired by the thrilling strains of the national hymn and even "Yankee Doodle" will probably not be forgotten. Two grand concerts are given each day and they consist not alone of concert pieces by the band but also comprise solos on the cornet, clarinet, trombone, violoncello, flute and piccolo, sprinkled with duets, quartettes and vocal numbers. Other entertainments have been provided that call forth the full admiration of the multitudes, from the almond-eyed oriental of the east to the typical representative of the west.

While within all is intricate beauty, the outside of the palace will be no less charming. Although the structure is so large, the covering of cereals gives it an appearance of fairy-like airiness. Above the wide-arched entrance at the corner of Pearl and Sixth streets rises the central dome, which proudly bears the stars and stripes, its silken sheen gleaming 175 feet

above the earth. On the sides facing Pierce and Sixth streets are four domes each; these unfurl other starry banners and turrets and towers innumerable, fanciful and fantastic, rise in graceful loveliness. From tower to tower, from dome to dome and turret to turret hang great festoons of the grasses and cereals of the northwest. Outside the palace the entertainments are sumptuous and grand. The feature of the great festival is the grand street pageant, the glittering magnificence of which rivals the far-famed Mardi gras of New Orleans and the tropical luxuriance of the Carnival-de-Venice will pale before its unique and dazzling novelties. The same artist, Francois Dubois, who is engaged to create the designs for the next year's Mardi gras, has been secured to arrange the parade for Sioux City, and it was with the greatest difficulty; but "Sioux City has a way of its own" and that way is ever crowned with success and knows not the meaning of the word fail. There were 200 in chariots and on horses; all the costumes were the creation of this artist for this especial occasion. The papier mache work was made abroad and shipped to Sioux City in sections; it was put together here by scenic artists, who also arranged the floats and other paraphernalia. The reader may think that all this must have cost something; yes, it did. The waterfall alone, with its large sewers to carry off the surplus water has cost an immense amount, while the Elgin band is the most expensive that could be obtained. Hundreds and hundreds of decorations have been employed; the street pageant itself has consumed a private fortune; but Sioux City never stops for expense and guests are not wanting. Special trains were ordered in Boston and other eastern cities for the purpose of visiting the eighth wonder of the world and many temporary hotels were reared for the accommodation of the masses.

With thirty miles of street railway, electric, cable and elevated, Sioux City has facilities to convey her guests to any part of the city; with her seventeen miles of paved streets and her many miles of shady avenues and the elegant turn-outs provided by the numerous liveries, she offers special inducements to while away the leisure hours in viewing the city from all the surrounding heights.

The manufacturing suburbs of Leeds, North Riverside and Lynn offer many advantages to those wishing to invest in either real estate or manufacturing interests. At the largest jobbing point in Iowa traders can see what business means.

The forty churches of Sioux City gladly welcome all strangers to worship with them on the Sabbath. As the fourth packing center of the United States she can entertain all interested in that branch of industry.

With her sixty-seven manufacturing establishments, one will not be at a loss to find places to visit of some interest.

In the pavilion at the end of the cable line are given nightly entertainments, while the Peavy Grand is the finest opera-house between Chicago and Ogden.

The buildings of Sioux City, both public and private, are fine structures always kept in perfect repair. Eight great highways pass through this lively center, making in all sixteen approaches to the city. All these roads give reduced rates during the corn palace festival, thus giving unexcelled opportunities to visit the great northwest.

All who visit Sioux City are treated with a courtesy before unknown and will experience a pleasure trip to be remembered for a lifetime and will learn of things which their wildest fancy never imagines. The "Grand Characteristic Parade," representing Sioux City in 1854, proved a splendid ovation. No



such concourse of people was ever before seen in the northwest. A more entertaining and significant presentment of historic fact would have been difficult to devise and both to surviving pioneers of the northwest, whose memories retain the experience of primitive life, and to the younger generation and visitors from the east, to whom the hardships of early western days were known only by tradition, the opening display was perhaps the most interesting one shown during the festival.

This parade moved at 10 o'clock A.M. Tuesday, October 4, a platoon of police clearing the way and after them a band of musicians; then came a band of Indians from the reservation—Omahas, Sioux and Winnebagos—numbering 250. Seventy-five of the Indians were mounted, being in full war paint and feathers and clad with the skins of wild animals, bright-colored prints and gaudy clothes, uttering supposed war-whoops and brandishing weapons as they moved along. There lacked nothing to paint the picture which in 1854 was one of terror to the adventurous settlers of the northwest. At some distance behind the troop of mounted warriors, which went through all the evolutions of Indian warfare, charging with piercing whoops, breaking in disorder, reforming with the precision of regular cavalry, there followed the remainder of the band in motley vehicles and equipages, which are only to be seen on an Indian reservation. The squaws and papooses were decked out in the gaudiest of savage fancy and they gazed at the sights at every hand in wonderment equal to that with which they were themselves regarded by the multitude.

As the Indian band sped on and passed out of view there came, most appropriately in the realistic panorama, the signs of advancing civilization—the representatives of the vanguard of the mighty army which drove out the red man and made his

hunting-ground a corn-field. The pack train followed hard upon the heels of the retreating Indians, six ponies bearing a burden of furs and other frontier spoil bound for the trading post. They, like the other figures in this peculiar drama, were genuine. At their side was George Tackett, an experienced trapper in those wild days, who speaks the language of the native. He was clad in buckskin garb with rifle slung for instant use and looked like the frontier man he used to be. If the pencil of a Stanley could have caught him then historic art would have been enriched. Next came the stage coach with Tom Parott, the second oldest stage driver in the northwest, on the box. The stage contained express messengers duly armed and a "friendly" Indian.

The emigrant train of the '50s followed next. There was the spectacle of the old-time prairie schooners drawn by oxen and filled with the characteristic household effects, the working tools and scant possessions of the pioneer. Behind some wagons the never-failing feed box was hung on and over it the spinning-wheel and venerable splint-bottomed chairs. In rear of others the family cow was led; the rear of another held a crate in which were ducks and chickens; one wagon had lost a hind wheel and came trailing along alone on a pole. The travel-stained canvas bore legends copied from literal inscriptions remembered by the early comers.

The next picture was especially realistic—a freight train bound for the Black Hills camp. It was no illusion, for the immense vans had seen actual service. Three vans, lashed together in true frontier style piled full of freight, were drawn by six-mule teams, the driver guiding them with a single line and the bells upon their harness jingling merrily as they moved along. It was a true survivor of old-time prairie life.

It would require an immense amount of space to describe particularly the floats and various other representations of pioneer days which made up the first day's parade. What has been said will suffice as a suggestion of the comprehensiveness and accuracy of this particular display and also of the other parades during the festival.

The industrial parade, military parade, consolidated review, Grand Lodge of Iowa Masons, etc., were all fine and the visit of a party of eminent railroad men was an important event in the history of the corn palace city and northwest Iowa. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. Ferris, Albert Keep, Chauncey M. Depew, Marvin Hughitt, J. M. Whitman, Mr. Webb of the Wagner Car Company, Vice-President Sykes of the Northwestern system, Mr. DeCosta of the Lake Shore road and Mr. Fitch of the Sioux City & Pacific road were traveling by special train over the lines in which they were interested and signified a desire to visit the corn palace. Although the exposition had just closed, the city authorities and a number of Sioux City business men received the party in an informal manner and conducted the distinguished party through the palace, still undisturbed in decorations and exhibits. The visitors expressed hearty appreciation of the evidence of the prosperity of this region. Mr. Depew was called on to address the company and spoke in his eloquent and felicitous style.

President and Mrs. Cleveland visited the corn palace of 1888, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Postmaster-General Vilas, Judge Wilson Bissel, Col. Lamont and others.

Mr. Cleveland expressed surprise at the quality of the corn grown in northwest Iowa and remarked that it certainly must be a rich country. He asked many questions relative to the productiveness and resources of the northwest. His curiosity

was aroused by specimens of parti colored "squaw corn" and he said: "With your permission I will take one of these," putting an ear of the corn in his pocket. Mrs. Cleveland was the recipient of numerous bouquets and other souvenirs of the palace.

The visit of the President's party at that time, under the circumstances, was a fair illustration of the interest which was excited throughout the country in the great festival. The leading papers of all the large cities sent special correspondents, who daily telegraphed elaborate reports of its features and progress. The leading pictorial papers, like *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's* in this country, and even the London *Graphic* and *Illustrated News*, published copious illustrations and gave extended accounts.

The success of the Sioux City corn palace of 1890 was so signal and the impression made by it upon the public mind so deep and abiding that it has become a permanent and distinctive Sioux City enterprise. Sioux City will be the scene of an annual harvest; local aspirations answering to the earnest demand of the northwest involved this result, the interest of which, running far beyond the limits of the upper Missouri valley enlists attention which may almost be described as national in extent.

The success of the corn palace of 1891 is more than assured. It is certified by the eminent success of the corn palace of 1890. In the agricultural domain of the upper Missouri valley there has been seasons of prosperity. Seedtime and harvest never fail in the unrivaled corn region of northwest Iowa, which rejoices the heart and moves to celebration. To such a prospect Sioux City extends a cordial invitation to the world and to the million visitors who will gaze upon the corn palace of 1891 assurance of their fullest satisfaction.

## A SYMPHONY IN CEREALS.

## AN ATTORNEY'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CORN PALACE AND ITS BEAUTIES.

In the *Farmers' Institute*, published at Mason City, appears the following from Sioux City, being a novel and interesting description of the corn palace, written by J. H. Quick of this city:

The corn palace is now in process of construction. Again the architect's brain has evolved the plan, again the great piles of lumber are seen on the ground, and again hammer and saw are heard articulating the skeleton of the corn marvel. This time the palace will look like a bit of scenery from the banks of the Bosphorus, for the design is that of a great Turkish mosque, and from its slender minarets and towering dome one might almost expect to hear the voice of the muezzin calling all true believers to prayer. But it is dedicated to the prophet of agriculture and not to the prophet of Islam; to Mondamin, not Mohammed.

By the time this reaches your readers the work will be well under way. A great mosque, elegant in form, broad, lofty and in every way spacious in dimensions, is built of—what? Simply rough lumber! It is an architectural anomaly.

Shut your eyes and enter and from the evidence of your nostrils you will imagine yourself in some great barn filled with fragrant hay and new-garnered grain. Trust your ears and you will imagine it a workshop from the constant tapping of innumerable hammers and buzzing of saws. Open your eyes and you exclaim, "It is fairyland!"

In place of the piles of lumber are such quantities of heterogeneous truck that it seems a dozen agricultural fair exhibits reduced to chaos. Piles of cornstalks and of corn in the ear in different-colored lots—in one pile red ears, in another yellow, in another white, or blue or "calico" corn, or pop-corn—are daily deposited on the grounds. Here come stacks of sorghum and wheat and barley and rye. Quantities of millet and other marsh grass appear. Every kind of grass or cereal is brought here from all the surrounding country and the wonderful task begins.

Over yonder is a little buzz-saw run by an electric motor. It has a hopper like a corn-sheller and a man feeds it with ears of corn. They come out neatly split in the middle, just as a long cucumber might be sliced in two with a knife. Near him is another man at a machine similar to those which grocers use for cutting plug tobacco. He is cutting off transverse sections of ears of corn in cylindrical blocks of uniform length. These slabs and blocks play an important part in rendering beautiful this temple of Ceres.

You think some of the patterns done in cut shingles on Queen Anne cottages nowadays pretty, don't you? Yet on the corn palace they are put to shame by



designs in blocks and slabs of corn on a backing of pine. A man nails on four half ears side by side, with their flat side to the wall, and they make a square. These run up and down. Run the next square horizontally and you have another square of different appearance. Cover a large space with these alternating squares or diamonds and a curious imbricated appearance is given which is wonderfully beautiful even when done in only one color. But imagine the gorgeous effect when all the colors found in corn are used by people who are the greatest masters of such decorative art in the world.

Diverge these slabs of corn from a common center and you have a star, and nothing but the figures in a kaleidoscope can vie with the designs here found in either number or beauty. Still more striking effects are produced by the use of the cylindrical blocks. Each block end shows the white cob with a ring of red or blue or yellow around it. You see at a glance how this form lends itself to decorative purposes.

You look at a column and you think it is marble at the top gradually shading down to deepest carnelian at the bottom. Yet it is nothing but corn. A model of a beautiful boat-house is worked out in every particular.

Flags in red, white and blue, a ten-inch cannon, yellow as brass outside and blue as steel within; here you think surely some other substance has been used. Step closer and you will see that the brass and steel are made by fitting kernels of corn closely together and fastening each kernel in place with a tack. There are rich brown spaces covered with flax showing the balls. Others are bright green—these are cane. The rays of yellow light shooting out from the sun up there are yellow cornstalks.

Golden wheat and rye and millet and barley are used in a thousand ways. Not in geometrical patterns alone. Landscapes of astonishing beauty are done in natural colors by the fair artists of Sioux City; but instead of oils and water colors they are hay and corn and grass. And they need nothing else, for their success is perfect.

All these things have been done in former years, but the palace of 1891 promises to be a surprise to Sioux City people even. It will be 264 by 264 feet in size, twice as large as last year's palace. Its style will be graceful and beautiful in the highest degree. Its decorations will exceed anything of its kind ever seen. It will be filled with exhibits from all over the country. It will have an auditorium seating 1,200 people. Trained musicians will occupy the stage. Its ventilation will be perfect, but daylight will be excluded and it will be lighted by thousands of electric lights.

When the visitor enters he will be struck with wonder. He will look across a clear space of nearly 100 feet, and on the opposite side, dazzling with incandescent lights, he will see a waterfall pouring into a lake, peopled with fish. There will be fairy grottoes, each one having a special attraction. Away up in the top of the lofty dome will be an artificial sky studded with electric stars. Strains of sweet music will mingle with the sound of the falling waters, and around will be arranged the useful and beautiful treasures of a score of states.

## A QUOTATION.

Oh, I am the king of a grander realm  
Than monarch or czar may own.  
The forces of nature my vassals are  
And the wide, gray earth my throne.

My banners hung on a thousand hills  
Their radiant oriflamme;  
And the air was thrill with resonant song  
Of welcome when I came.

And none but I the miracle knew;  
How from the humble seed  
The mystic wonder of harvest grew  
In answer to human need.

The song of vintage resounds at eve,  
And echoes at early morn;  
But the sweetest melody of the year  
Is heard in the rustling corn.

And I am the mystic warder  
That stands at the autumn's gate—  
Mondamin, the carnival spirit,  
That rules at the palace fete.

And my song is of joy and gladness—  
A rune without favor or fear—  
The myth but never the sadness  
That comes with the waning year.

For I am the king of a grander realm  
Than monarch or czar may own.  
The forces of nature my vassals are  
And the wide, gray earth my throne.

PART SIXTH

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# EARLY REMINISCENCES

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OF NORTHEAST AND CENTRAL IOWA, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPITAL CITY.



## GEN. GEO. W. JONES.

PIONEER OF NORTHEASTERN IOWA.

Gen. Geo. W. Jones of Dubuque, Iowa, was born at Vincennes, Ind., on April 12, 1804, and came with his parents, Hon. John R. and Mary Jones, to Kaskaskia, Ill., in 1805, and from there went to St. Genevieve, Mo., in 1808, and to New Diggings, Potosi, Mo., in 1814.



GEN. GEO. W. JONES.

His father framed the first constitution of Missouri and was justice of the supreme court of that state until he died at St. Louis on February 1, 1824. He also served as an officer under Col. Geo. R. Clark, at the capture of Vincennes and Kaskaskia in 1779. Those were dark days indeed in the history of the infant settlements of the great northwest, in consequence of the many outrages practiced by the Indians. Gen. Jones attended school at St. Genevieve, Potosi and St. Louis,

graduating at Transylvania university in Lexington, Ky., on July 13, 1825.

He was sergeant of the body-guard of Gen. Andrew Jackson, as that very distinguished hero and statesman passed



through Kentucky and Lexington to take his seat in the senate of the United States in November, 1823. He also served in the same capacity to the Marquis de La Fayette at Lexington in May following. He was drummer boy in the company commanded by Capt. Wm. Sinn at St. Genevieve, Mo., in the fall of 1814. He was clerk of the district court of the United States at St. Genevieve, Mo., from 1825 to 1827. He was aide-de-camp to Gen. Henry Dodge in the Black Hawk war, and was colonel, general and judge in Iowa county, Wis., twice sergeant-general and three times elected delegate to congress, and was Iowa's first United States senator and minister to Bogota, South America.

Gen. Jones has been a long and favored resident of Iowa, his home having been in Dubuque since about 1839. He is now in his eighty-fourth year, hale and hearty, and the interesting facts which he can relate in regard to the early settling of Iowa would fill a large volume.

## CHAPTER I.

For many years it had been the policy of the government to obtain a relinquishment of the title of the Indians to all lands within the limits of the states and as rapidly as possible cause the removal of the tribes to territories beyond the Mississippi. In 1830 the Chickasaws and Choctaws, occupying portions of the states of Alabama and Mississippi, agreed to remove and in due time carried out their agreement in good faith. The same year a treaty was made with the Sacs and Foxes by which they agreed to cede their lands to the United States and remove beyond the Mississippi. The principal village of these united tribes was located at the mouth of Rock river, on the east side of the Mississippi, near where the city of Rock Island now stands. Here had been an Indian village, according to tradition, for 150 years. These tribes had owned and occupied the country bordering on the Mississippi to an extent of 700 miles, from the mouth of the Wisconsin almost to the mouth of the Missouri. The Indians did not seem disposed to comply promptly with the terms of the treaty and one band, under the noted chief Black Hawk (Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kai-kiak), evinced a determination to keep possession of their old village. John Reynolds, governor of Illinois, construed their continued residence in the ceded territory as an invasion of the state and under his authority, to protect the state from invasion, ordered out 700 militia to force their removal, according to the treaty. This interference of the governor of Illinois with the duties belonging to the federal government,

obliged the commander of United States troops in that quarter to co-operate with him in order to prevent a collision between the state militia and the Indians. Ft. Armstrong, on Rock Island, had been established as early as 1816 and when the Black Hawk trouble commenced was in command of Gen. Atkinson. The Indians were overawed by this imposing military force and, yielding to necessity, crossed the Mississippi. Black Hawk, feeling exasperated at the harsh treatment his people had received, resolved to prosecute a predatory war against the white settlements. He united his band of Sacs and Foxes with the Winnebagoes under the command of the prophet Wabo-ki-e-sheik (White Cloud) and in March, 1832, recrossed to the east side of the Mississippi. They murdered a number of defenseless families and committed many outrages upon the settlers. The whole frontier became alarmed and many of the settlers fled for safety. The governor of Illinois ordered out the state militia, which, being joined by 400 regular troops, constituted a force of about 1,000, under the command of Gen. Atkinson. They pursued the Indians and after a campaign of about two months, during which two engagements were fought, the war was brought to an end. The last and the decisive battle of the war is known in history as the battle of Bad Axe, being fought on a small tributary of the Wisconsin of that name. This battle took place August 2, 1832, and the force against Black Hawk was commanded by Gen. Henry Dodge of Wisconsin. The Indians lost forty of their braves and Gen. Dodge one. The Indians made but little further resistance and Black Hawk's "British band," as it was styled, became demoralized and fled. They reached the Mississippi and were making preparations for crossing when they were checked by the captain of the steamboat Warrior, who dis-

charged a six-pounder at them, although they had displayed a flag of truce. The next morning Gen. Atkinson arrived with his army and made an attack which the Indians were now powerless to resist. Black Hawk escaped, but was taken by some treacherous Winnebagoes and delivered along with the prophet on August 27 to Gen. Street at Prairie du Chien. Two of Black Hawk's sons, the prophet and other leaders were also taken and by order of the government were conveyed through the principal cities and towns on the seaboard in order that they might be impressed with the greatness and power of the United States.

For some time Black Hawk was held as captive and then, through the intercession of Keokuk, who had been opposed to the war and had not participated in the hostilities, he was allowed to return to Rock Island, and permitted to join his people. Treaties were made with the offending tribes, by which they agreed to compensate for the expense of the war by ceding a valuable part of their territory on the west side of the Mississippi, and to remove immediately from the east side. The United States stipulated to pay to these tribes annually \$30,000 for twenty-seven years, and also to make other provisions for them. By this treaty the United States acquired the first territory in Iowa which was opened to settlement. It is what is known as the "Black Hawk Purchase" and embraced a strip of territory extending from the northern boundary of Missouri to the north of the upper Iowa river, about fifty miles in width, and embracing an area of about 6,000,000 acres. This treaty was made on September 21, 1832, at a council held on the west bank of the Mississippi river, where the city of Davenport now stands, in northeast Iowa. Gen. Winfield Scott and Gov. John Reynolds of Illinois

represented the United States, and on the part of the Indians there were present Keokuk, Pashepaho, and about thirty other chiefs and warriors of the Sac and Fox nation. Within the limits of this purchase was reserved a tract of 400 square miles, situated on the Iowa river and including Keokuk's village. This tract was known as "Keokuk's Reserve," and was occupied by the Indians until 1836, when it was ceded to the United States. This treaty was negotiated by Gov. Henry Dodge of Wisconsin territory, and on the part of the Indians Keokuk was the leading spirit. This council was also held on the banks of the Mississippi, near the site of the present city of Davenport. The treaty stipulated for the removal of the Indians to another reservation on the Des Moines river. On this an agency was established where the present town of Agency City in Wapello county is located. Out of the "Black Hawk Purchase" was conveyed to Antoine Le Claire, an interpreter, whose wife was an Indian, one section of land opposite Rock Island and another at the head of the first rapids above the island.

Julien Dubuque, a Frenchman by birth, had the honor of making the first white settlement in northeastern Iowa. In 1788, having obtained permission from the Indians, he crossed the Mississippi with a small party of miners for the purpose of working lead mines at the place where is now located the city which bears his name, the lead having been discovered a short time before by the wife of Peosta, a Fox warrior. Dubuque was a native of France and as a trader he acquired great influence with the Sac and Fox chiefs. Dubuque, as was a common custom among the French traders, had married an Indian woman. He gave to the district embraced in this grant the name of the mines of Spain, in 1796, in compliment



to the Spanish governor. He remained in mining until his death, which occurred March 24, 1810. He was buried on a bluff near the present city and at his grave was placed a cedar cross, hewn square and about twelve feet high. A number of Indians were afterward buried at the same place and among them the chief Kettle and his wife, who both died some eighteen years after Dubuque.

One of the most exciting incidents connected with the early history of Davenport and northeast Iowa was the murder of Col. George Davenport on Rock Island, July 4, 1845. The country on both sides of the river had been infested by a lawless band of freebooters, with their supposed headquarters at Nauvoo. They had organized themselves into bands and engaged in horse stealing, counterfeiting, burglary, robbery and murder. In some places men in official positions and of good standing in the community were associated with them. On the fatal July 4 Col. Davenport's family were away at Stephenson attending a celebration, when three men attacked him in his house, one of whom shot him with a pistol through the thigh. They then bound him with strips of bark, blindfolded him and made a search for the key of his safe, but were unable to find it. Returning to the wounded man they carried him upstairs where the safe was and compelled him to unlock it. The booty obtained was about \$600 in money, a gold watch chain and seals, a double-barrelled gun and a few articles of minor value. Col. Davenport lived long enough to relate the incidents of the robbery. For several weeks no trace could be found of the murderers. Edward Bonney of Lee county, Iowa, undertook to ferret out their place of concealment. About the middle of August he went to Nauvoo where he obtained trace of them by representing himself as one of the gang. On Septem-

ber 8 he arrested a man named Fox at Centreville, Iowa, and committed him to jail there. On the 19th he arrested two others, Birch and John Long, at Sandusky, Ohio, and brought them to Rock Island by way of the lakes and Chicago. These three men were known in the west as leaders of gangs of desperadoes, but operated under different names. Three others were also arrested as accessories, Richard Baxter and Aaron Long, near Galena, Ill., and Granville Young at Nauvoo. Aaron was a brother of John Long. On October 6 all of them were indicted by the grand jury of Rock Island county, except Fox, who had escaped from jail in Indiana on September 17. On October 14 the two Longs were put upon trial, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on the 27th of the same month. Birch, the greatest villain, turned state's evidence. Baxter was tried separately, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on November 18. John Long confessed all, but died a hardened wretch, without sign of repentance or fear of death.

Col. George Davenport resided near the post; he supplied the troops with provisions and was also engaged in trading with the Indians. Most of his goods were brought from Mackinaw through Green Bay, thence up to Fox river to the "portage," where they were packed across to the Wisconsin river and carried down the Mississippi in what were called Mackinaw boats. The navigation of the upper Mississippi was confined to keel boats until 1823, when the first steamboat, the Virginia from Wheeling, ascended with provisions to Prairie du Chien. This boat was four days in passing the rapids at Rock Island. After this, up to 1827, steamboats continued to ascend the upper Mississippi occasionally with troops and military stores. In this year Capt. James May, of the steamboat Shamrock, made the first voyage with her from Pittsburg to Galena.

This was the first general business trip ever made on the upper Mississippi by a steamboat. Capt. May continued as master of a steamboat on this part of the river until 1834.

In May, 1854, the first railroad was built in Iowa at or near high-water mark on the bank of the Mississippi in the city of Davenport, and was completed to Iowa City, a distance of about fifty-five miles, in Johnson county. The first locomotive in Iowa was landed at Davenport in July of the same year and was called the Antoine Le Claire. The road was then called the Mississippi & Missouri railroad. On January 1, 1891, there were in Iowa over 30,000 miles of railroad.

#### ON TO IOWA.

"Trains of wagons crept the long road over—"  
"For Iowa" painted on each dusty cover;  
Scores of children, black-headed, red and white,  
The latter oftenest coming into sight,  
Looking from the wagons—a mixed-up mass—  
To see the country as they slowly pass.  
The wagon's rear end held the spinning-wheel;  
Oft its companion, too, the winding reel,  
But oftener still the rude split-bottomed chair,  
With or without rockers, was fastened there.  
The travelers were in fitting dress arrayed,  
Which by their own industrious hands were made;  
Father and sons in brown jean hunting shirts,  
The mothers and daughters in linsey skirts;  
Each having their allotted part to do,  
Driving the teams and gentle cattle too.

Such were the men and such the women were  
Who came through trials and vexatious care  
To people up this splendid grassy plain  
And change it into fields of waving grain.  
Hopefully from their forest homes they went,  
Where they had toiled for comfort and content;  
Working earnestly many a weary day,  
Striving to clear the trees and brush away,  
Which formed a standing guard above the soil,

Only to be subdued by hardest toil.  
Truly, 'tis seen, that they had chosen well  
In concluding that they'd no longer dwell  
In places where dame Nature must be wooed  
So long and wearily for so little good.  
In going forth a better lot to seek  
Where this same nature is a kindly freak,  
Had neatly cleared the rich and seemly land  
And left it waiting for the plowman's hand.  
Another favor unto him she'd granted,  
In broad, expansive meadows ready planted,  
Decked with such flowers, doubt it, you who can,  
As surpassed the glory of King Solomon.

The circumstance which, more than any other, favored the early and rapid settlement of northeast and central Iowa was the abundance of timber. The presence of timber aided materially in bringing about an early settlement and it was aided in two ways. First, the country in this section had of course to depend on emigration from the older settled states of the east for its population, and especially Ohio and Indiana. These states originally were almost covered with dense forests and farms were made by clearing off certain portions of the timber. Almost every farm there, after it became thoroughly improved, still retained a certain tract of timber commonly known as "the woods." The woods is generally regarded as the most important part of the farm and the average farmer regarded it as indispensable. When he emigrated west the greatest objection to the Iowa country was the scarcity of timber and he did not suppose that it would be possible to open up a farm on the bleak prairie. To live in a region devoid of the familiar sight of timber seemed unendurable and the average Ohio and Indiana emigrant could not endure the idea of founding a home far away from the familiar sight of forest trees. Then again, the idea entertained by the early emigrants to northwest Iowa

that timber was a necessity was not simply theoretical and ethical. The early settler had to have a house to live in, fuel for cooking and heating purposes and fences to inclose his claim. At that time there were no railroads whereby lumber could be transported from the prairies. No coal mines had yet been opened and few, if any, had been discovered. Timber was an absolute necessity, without which personal existence as well as material improvement was an impossibility.

As before remarked, there are two reasons why the first settlers of northeast and central Iowa refused to locate at a distance from the timber and why the timbered region bordering on the Des Moines, Mississippi and Skunk rivers became densely populated, while the more fertile and more easily cultivated prairies remained for many years unclaimed. The pioneers were in the main descendants of those hardy backwoodsmen who conquered the dense forests of Indiana, Ohio and the regions farther east. When farms were opened up in those countries a large belt of timber was invariably reserved, from which the farmer could draw his supply of logs for lumber and fence rails and fuel for cooking and heating purposes. Even at the present day a farm without its patch of timber is exceedingly rare in those countries.

Having from their youth been accustomed to timber, the emigrants from these timbered regions of the east would have ever felt lonesome and solitary deprived of the familiar sight of the tall forest trees and shut off from the familiar sound of the wind passing through the branches of the venerable oaks.

In this day of railroads, herd laws, cheap lumber and cheap fuel, it is easy enough to open a farm and build up a comfortable home away out on the prairies, far from the sight of



timber. But not so under the circumstances surrounding the first settlers. There was no way of shipping lumber from the markets of the east, coal mines were unknown and before a parcel of land could be cultivated it was necessary to fence it. In order to settle the prairie countries it was necessary to have railroads, and in order to have railroads it was necessary that at least a portion of the country should be settled. Hence the most important resource in the development of northeast Iowa was the belts of timber which skirted the streams and the first settlers who hewed out homes in the timber, while at present not the most enterprising and progressive, were nevertheless an essential factor in the solution of the problem. From either side of the Mississippi, Des Moines, Iowa and Skunk rivers, flowing in a southwestern and southeastern direction, are a number of small streams or creeks. The uniform width of the belt of timber along the Des Moines was originally about five miles wide and where these smaller streams empty into the river the timber extends much farther out. These places were called "points" and on these the first settlements were made; here were the beginnings of civilization; here began to operate the forces which have made the wilderness a fruitful place and caused the desert to blossom as the rose.

Much of this primeval forest has been removed; part of it was economically manufactured into lumber which entered into the construction of the early dwelling-houses, many of which still remain; much of it has been ruthlessly and recklessly destroyed, consequently attention was early given to the culture of artificial groves. Among the most abundant of all trees originally found was the black walnut, so highly prized in all countries for manufacturing purposes. Timber of this kind was very plentiful and of good quality originally, but the

high price paid for this kind of timber presented itself as a temptation to destroy it which the people could not resist. The best timber in the state is found in northeast and central Iowa. Detached groves, both natural and artificial, are found at many places throughout these regions, which are not only ornamental but vary the monotony of the prairie and are likewise very useful, having an important bearing on the climate.

DES MOINES, THE METROPOLIS OF IOWA  
AND CAPITAL CITY.

Where Des Moines river with unceasing roll  
Passes through fertile fields by hidden beds of coal,  
Where she receives Raccoon's bright waves upon her breast—  
Two of the loveliest streams in all the west—  
There lies a spot, with great high-sounding name,  
Known well to history and the pride of Iowa fame.

The following interesting facts are taken from a "History of Polk County, Iowa," published in 1880:

The residence of the various Indian tribes in the vicinity of Des Moines dates from May 1, 1843, at which time, according to the stipulation of the treaty of 1842, they removed west of a line running north and south through the town of Red Rock in Marion county. As before stated, the government, according to the provision of the various treaties, paid to the Indians annually quite a sum of money. The payments were made in silver coins, put up in boxes containing 500 dollars each and passed into the hands of Keokuk for distribution. The several traders received each his quota, according to the several demands against the tribes admitted by Keokuk, which invariably consumed the far greater portion of the amount received; the remainder was turned over to the chief and distributed among the respective bands. Great complaints

were made of these allowances to the traders on the ground of exorbitant prices charged on the goods actually furnished and it was alleged that some of these accounts were spurious. In confirmation of this charge over and above the character of the items exhibited in these counts an affidavit was filed with Gov. Lucas (the first governor of Iowa) by an individual to whom the governor gave credence, setting forth that Keokuk had proposed to the maker of the affidavit to prefer a fictitious account against the tribe for the sum of \$10,000 and he would admit its correctness and, when paid, the money should be divided among themselves, share and share alike. To swell the trader's bills items were introduced of a character that should brand fraud upon their face, such as a large number of blanket coats, articles which the Indians never used, and telescopes, of the use of which they had no knowledge. This showed the reckless manner in which these bills were swollen to the exorbitant amounts complained of, in which Keokuk was openly charged with being in league with the traders to defraud the Indians.

The money which actually came into the possession of the Indians was soon squandered by them and the position of Indian trader, conferred by appointment, was a very lucrative one. During the period when the Indians resided in the vicinity of Des Moines, from May 1, 1843, to October 11, 1845, there were two firms which were allowed to trade with them. Phelps & Co. were from Illinois; they were traders in furs and were permitted to carry on their business with the Indians. G. W. & W. G. Ewing were the regularly authorized Indian traders and arrived on May 3, 1843. Their business career here was eminently successful and they accumulated quite a little fortune during their three years' harvest. Their place of

business was on the east side of the river, near where the magnificent capitol building stands to-day; they erected a log building not far from Major Beach, the Indian agent, which was probably the first one erected in Polk county.

At this time the Sacs and Foxes numbered about 2,300 and it is not possible that Keokuk could have carried on an organized system of theft without the fact becoming apparent to all. As it was, however, Gov. Lucas thought best to change the manner in which the annual payments were made. The matter was referred to the Indian bureau and the mode was changed so that the payments were made to heads of families. This method of payment did not suit the traders and after a short trial the old plan was again adopted. That the Indians, then as now, were the victims of sharp practice cannot be doubted, but the fact can be attributed to the superior tact and the unscrupulous character of many of the traders. This furnishes a more probable explanation and is more in accord with the character of Keokuk, as known by his intimate friends still living, than to attribute these swindling operations to a conspiracy in which the illustrious chief was the leading actor.

Among the early settlers of Iowa the names of Keokuk and Wapello are the most noted and familiar. These two illustrious chiefs live not only in the recollections of these early settlers, but in the permanent history of our common country. To the school-boy who has frequently read of these Indians the fact that they once roved around on the very ground where their feet tread, and that in their hunting excursions these Indians crossed the same prairies where they now gather the yellow-eared corn, will give to these sketches intense interest, while the early settlers who talked with Wapello and Keokuk, ate with them, hunted with them and fished with them, cannot

fail to find in these leaves something fascinating, as they are thus led back over half a century to live over again the days of other years and witness again the scenes of early days, when the tall prairie grass waved in the autumn breeze and the country, like themselves, was younger and fresher than now.

Keokuk came first into prominence among the whites at the breaking out of the second war with England, commonly known as the war of 1812. Most of the Indians at that time espoused the cause of the English, but Keokuk at the head of a large number of the Sacs and Foxes remained faithful to the Americans. In 1828, Keokuk, in accordance with the terms of a treaty, crossed the Mississippi river with his tribe and established himself on the Iowa river. Here he remained in peace and his tribe flourished till the breaking out of the Black Hawk war in 1832. He seemed to have a much more intelligent insight into the great national questions which were raised during these early difficulties as well as more thorough appreciation of the resources of the national government. He opposed the Black Hawk war and seemed to forecast the great disaster which thereby befell his tribe. Although many of his warriors deserted him and followed Black Hawk in his reckless campaign across the Mississippi, Keokuk prevailed upon a majority of his tribe to remain at home. When the news reached Keokuk that Black Hawk's warriors had gained a victory over Stillman's forces in Ogle county, Ill., the war spirit broke out among his followers like fire in the dry prairie grass. A war dance was held and the chief himself took part in it. He seemed for a while to move in sympathy with the rising storm, and at the conclusion of a war dance he called a council to prepare for war. In a work entitled "*Annals of Iowa*," published in 1865, there is reported the substance of a speech made by



Keokuk on the occasion. We quote: "I am your chief and it is my duty to lead you to battle. If after fully considering the matter you are determined to go on the warpath I will lead you on one condition: that before we go we kill all our old men and our wives and our children, to save them from a lingering death by starvation and that every one of you determine to leave your bones on the other side of the Mississippi river." This was a strong and truthful picture of the prospect before them and was presented in such a forcible light that it caused them to abandon their rash undertaking.

Keokuk was ever recognized as the head of the Sac and Fox nation by the United States government.

It is said that a bitter feud existed in the tribe during the time that Keokuk lived near Des Moines between Keokuk's band and the Black Hawk band. Their distrust and hatred were smothered in their common intercourse when sober, but when their blood was fired with whisky it sometimes assumed a tragic feature among the leaders of the respective bands.

In person Keokuk was of commanding appearance. He was tall, straight as an arrow and of very graceful mien. These personal characteristics together with his native fervor and ready command of language gave him great power over his people as a speaker. If as a man of energy and courage he gained the respect and obedience of his tribe, it was more especially as an orator that he was able to wield his people in the times of great excitement and in a measure shape their policy in dealing with the white man. As an orator rather than as a warrior has Keokuk's claim to greatness been founded.

The event in the life of Keokuk which more than any other gave him a national reputation was his trip to Washington City. He in company with Black Hawk, Powesheik, Kish-ke-kosh and

some fifteen other chiefs, under the escort of Gen. J. M. Street, visited Washington City and different parts of the east in 1837. The party descended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Ohio by steamer and thence up the latter to Wheeling, where they took stage across the mountains. When the party arrived in Washington, at the request of some of the government officials a council was held with some chiefs of the Sioux then present, as the Sacs and Foxes were waging a perpetual war with the Sioux nation.

The council was held in the hall of representatives. To the great indignation of the Sioux, Kish-ke-kosh appeared dressed in a buffalo hide which he had taken in war from a Sioux chief and took his position in one of the large windows, with the mane and horns of the buffalo as a sort of head-dress and the tail trailing on the floor. The Sioux complained to the officials, claiming that this was an insult to them, but they were informed that the Sacs and Foxes had a right to appear in any kind of costume they chose to wear.

The first speech was made by a Sioux, who complained bitterly of the wrongs they had suffered and how they had been driven from their homes by the Sacs and Foxes, their warriors killed and their villages burned. Then followed Keokuk, the great orator of his tribe, who replied at some length, an interpreter repeating the speech after him. There were those present who had heard Webster, Calhoun, Clay and Benton in the same hall and they declared that for the manner of delivery, for native eloquence, impassioned expression of countenance, the chief surpassed them all; and this while they could not understand his words, save as they were repeated by the interpreter. From Washington they went to New York, where they were shown no little attention and Gen. Street

attempted to show them the city on foot. The people, in their anxiety to see Keokuk and Black Hawk, crowded them beyond the point of endurance and in order to avoid the throng they were compelled to make their escape through a store building and reached their hotel through the back alleys and less frequented streets. At Boston they were met at the depot by a delegation of leading citizens and conveyed in carriages to the hotel. The next day they were taken in open carriages and, with a guard of honor on foot, they were shown the whole city. During their stay in Boston they were the guests of the great American orator, Edward Everett, who made a banquet for them. When the Indians returned and were asked about New York they only expressed their disgust. Boston was the only city in the United States in their estimation.

The Indians were soon destined to create no further disturbance upon the soil of Iowa, which the white man had marked for his own. In accordance with the stipulations of sacred treaties, and likewise agreeably to the demands of the times, the allotted time had now come for the red man to move westward again on his roving mission and add one more proof that his race is fast passing away and must eventually disappear before the restless march of the Anglo-Saxon, as did the traditional Mound Builder give place to the predatory red man of later times.

And did the dust  
Of these fair solitudes once stir with life  
And burn with passion? Let the mighty mounds  
That overlook the rivers, or that rise  
In the dim forests crowded with old oaks  
Answer. A race that has long passed away  
Built them. The red man came—  
The roaming hunter tribes, warlike and fierce—  
And the Mound Builders vanished from the earth.  
The solitude of centuries untold

Has settled where they dwelt. The prairie wolf  
Howls in their meadows and his fresh-dug den  
Yawns by my path. The gopher mines the ground  
Where stood their swarming cities. All is gone—  
All save the piles of earth that hold their bones—  
The platforms where they worshiped unknown gods.

The Indian title to the lands now included in the bounds of central Iowa expired at midnight of October 11, 1845. Mr. H. B. Turrell, in his brief work entitled, "Historical Reminiscences of Des Moines," says:

"This period was implacently awaited by those who were already here, for after that time each one was at liberty to make a claim of 320 acres, which could be held until the government brought the lands into market and then purchased under such regulations as was the custom in 1857.

"Long before the expiration of the Indian title the settlers around the fort had made arrangements with each other and the most valuable tracts were already considered claims. Some claims were even measured and staked off, but this was of no validity and done only for convenience or to facilitate such subsequent survey as was absolutely necessary to establish and identify it.

"So eager were the settlers, who had previously remained only at the sufferance of the general government, to have permanent homes near the fort that during the forepart of the night preceding October 11 men were stationed in all directions around, with instructions to immediately begin the measurement of claims as soon as midnight arrived.

"Precisely at midnight the loud report of a musket fired from the agency house announced that the empire of the red man had ended forever and that of his master race had begun. Answering reports rang sharply on the night air in quick suc-

cession from every hill-top and every valley, till the signal was conveyed for miles around and all understood that civilization had now commenced her reign in central Iowa.

"The moon was slowly sinking in the west and its beams afforded a feeble and uncertain light for the measurement of claims in which so many were engaged. 'Ere long the landscape was enshrouded in darkness, save the wild and fitful glaring of the torches carried by the claim-makers. Before the night had entirely worn away the rough surveys were finished and the Indian lands had found new tenants.

"Throughout the country thousands of acres were laid off in claims before dawn. Settlers rushed in by hundreds and the regions, lately so tranquil and silent, felt the impulse of the change and became vocal with sounds of industry and enterprise.

"A reserve of a square mile around the fort was maintained so long as Ft. Des Moines remained a military post. Part of the troops were removed in the autumn of 1845, the remainder continued until June of the ensuing year. One hundred and sixty acres of this reserve, including all the buildings belonging to the fort, were afterward ceded by congress to Polk county and for several years these buildings furnished the county with various public offices."

The settlements in central Iowa properly began in October, 1845, as prior to that time no settlements were possible, except by the special permit of the general government and in the interests of the garrison of the fort. The history of the county begins, however, over three years earlier, when the fort was established at the Racoon Fork and when the first white persons located there, many of whom afterward became permanent settlers of central Iowa. There is no doubt but that the location of the fort at the Racoon Fork settled the destiny



of the future capital city and did much to hasten the development of the material resources of the surrounding country.

On May 9, 1843, the little steamer *Ione* arrived at the place where the city of Des Moines now stands with a detachment of troops on board, who immediately on their landing commenced the work of constructing the various buildings which were denominated the fort. The *Ione* was the first steamboat that had ever ventured to disturb the clear water of the Des Moines so far from its mouth. Having disembarked the troops with their accoutrements, baggage and the military stores which composed her lading, she departed. Capt. Allen, the commandant of the future fort, returned with her to make arrangements for bringing on the rest of the troops. In a month or two they arrived to join their comrades, a mere corporal's guard which Capt. Allen had left, and all immediately engaged heartily in building their barracks.

While thus employed they encamped along the bank of the river above what is now Court avenue. Their labors were severe and they had many privations to undergo, but a soldier's disposition grows very facile and readily accommodates itself to every change of circumstance. Their gay songs and loud laughter at evening mingled with the dashings of the river and the beatings of the morning drum, or the loud bugle notes awakened to new responses the echoes of surrounding hills and gave the western breezes their first lessons in our national melodies. The balmy air was invigorating and healthful, the beauties of summer adorned the forests and prairies, the enchantments were profusely spread around them, all combining to render their situation pleasing and attractive, so far as natural charms could do so.

The buildings which composed the fort were scattered along the banks of the Des Moines river and at various points through what is now the business part of the town. They consisted of barracks for the men and stables for the horses and were some twenty or twenty-five in number, a part of which remained until 1857.

These buildings were double log cabins, such as the early settlers often built and most of our readers have heard of; in another sense they were different from the typical double log cabin in that they were designed for a place of defense against any possible hostile incursion of the Indians. The double log cabin, frequently found in the early settlements, was two single cabins, built with their gables facing each other, with a space between, equal in size to the ground covered by one of the cabins. When the roof was put on it was extended across the open space between, thus forming a court which was useful for storing away certain furniture needed only on extraordinary occasions, farming implements, etc.; in addition to this it afforded a good and convenient shelter for the domestic animals in case of severe storms. The quarters of the garrison at the fort were houses similar to the double log cabin just described, with the exception that the side of the building facing outward was built up solid with logs, instead of having an open court, and at regular intervals in that side were small windows or loopholes through which the soldiers could discharge their pieces in case of an Indian attack.

As remarked by Mr. Turrell, there were some twenty or twenty-five of these buildings and, as they were located along the Des Moines river to the point and then up Coon river for a distance, the ground upon which they were built extended in the shape of an acute-angled triangle with the apex at Coon

Point. A towering flag-staff stood about midway between the sides of the triangle, the location being not far from where the principal part of the city now stands. This flag-staff was cut down soon after the soldiers departed, the destruction of which was a foolish and unnecessary act. If proper measures had been taken to preserve that flag-staff it might still be standing where the patriotic soldiers first planted it; such a relic of the first days of central Iowa, were it now in existence, would be of incalculable value, not only as a memento of early days but as a fixed point from which the exact situation of all the early buildings could be accurately and readily estimated.

FT. DES MOINES.—AS IT NOW IS.

In the account already given of Ft. Des Moines a tolerably good idea can be formed of the place at the time the Indians were removed; with the exception of the soldiers' quarters and the establishment of Robert Kinzie, the government sutler, there were no improvements on the west side. The improvements on the east side consisted of the buildings occupied by the Indian agents, Indian traders and fur dealers. According to that account there could not have been more than twenty-five or thirty log buildings all told and not exceeding fifteen or twenty inhabitants, excluding the soldiers. In speaking of this matter Mr. Turrell says:

"The foregoing enumeration includes very nearly all of the residents who settled near the fort in 1843, except the government troops. Their number continued about the same until the Indian title expired, when emigrants poured in like a flood."

A reserve of a square around the fort was maintained so long as Ft. Des Moines continued a military post. Part of the troops were removed in the autumn of 1845, the remainder

continued till June of the ensuing year. It will be impossible, and it would not be practicable were it possible, to give a full list of the persons who settled at Des Moines during the first few years, neither will it be practicable to note definitely all the improvements which were made from 1846 to 1850, when the pioneer days ended in northeast and central Iowa.

According to Nicollet the name Des Moines, which has been attached to the largest river, one of the first counties organized and the capital of the state, is a corruption of an Indian word signifying "at the road." He remarks: "But in the latter times the inhabitants associated this name (*Rivers des Moins*) with that of the Trappist monks (*Moine de la Trappe*), who resided on the Indian mounds of the American bottom. It was then concluded that the true reading of the *Rivers des Moins* was *Rivere Des Moines* or river of the monks, by which name it is designated on all maps." From an article written by Judge Negus of Fairfield, published in the "Annals of Iowa" some twenty years ago, entitled "The River of the Mounds," we take the following extracts:

"Nearly every state has some one particular river which especially attracts the attention of its citizens, on which their minds delight to dwell, about which they bestow their praise.

"Iowa has the beautiful river Des Moines, on which her citizens delight to bestow their eulogies. More has been done, said and thought about this river than all the other rivers in the state. In beauty of native scenery, in productiveness of soil, in mineral wealth and in many things that attract attention and add to the comfort of man the valley of the Des Moines is not surpassed by any locality in the world.

"The banks of this great watercourse and the surrounding country bear the marks of having been the home of a

numerous people centuries in the past and that this people were possessed of many of the arts of civilized life. But of what race of people they were and of the acts and scenes which have taken place in this beautiful valley we may imagine but probably never know. Of their habits and customs they have left some marks; but still there is wrapped around these evidences of their doings a mystery that is hard to solve."

With this brief sketch of the early settlements of Des Moines and central Iowa we now pass to the metropolis and capital city as she stands to-day on the banks of the same peaceful Des Moines where dwelt the red race centuries ago.

In 1856 Des Moines was quite a place and its growth from that time has been so rapid that in order to give even a synopsis of the improvements made during that period would fill a book of ordinary size; therefore, we give below a brief but interesting sketch of the city of to-day and how she appears to the visitor of 1890.

#### THE PRIDE OF IOWA.

The growth of this city has been of that nature that makes it in the first place a healthy one—one that goes to make up a solid city in every respect. The private buildings that have been erected are of a permanent and substantial character, while those of a public nature are far in advance of those of previous years, so far as the workmanship, material and stability is concerned, the city having discarded the rapidly decaying wood block pavement and in its stead adopted what should have been done years ago, the substantial brick pavement, which will stand the hard test to which the streets are subjected, and, in addition to this, keep the money that is paid out from year to year for this improvement at home and furnish employment to scores of workingmen.



As a city of homes Des Moines has always held a pre-eminent position and as such is known far and wide, and in keeping with the record of the last decade has erected the past year



GRAND OPERA-HOUSE, DES MOINES.

hundreds of elegant residences and adorned them with beautiful lawns, etc. This has not been confined to any part of the city, but in all directions from the center they can be found by

scores. Another prime factor in this part of the material growth of the capital city is the fact that fully nine-tenths of the private residences built are for the occupancy of their owners as homes, and they are at once convenient, tasteful and comfortable. There is probably not another city in the Union for its size that contains so few so-styled tenement blocks as Des Moines, but it is rather the rule that the tenant has a house and lot to himself and family, a boon not vouchsafed to the tenement class in many cities.

Notwithstanding the immense number of new houses erected during the year just passed, there has been more than a corresponding increase in population, for it is a well-known fact that it is next to impossible to rent a house such as would be wanted by a family of even moderate means.

The year of 1890 has certainly been a most propitious one for the capital city in the way of both private and public improvements and we shall only enumerate a few of the more prominent features brought before us by a personal visit and careful research about the city not long since. Besides the erection and improvement of 580 buildings for private use at a cost of \$2,365,450 there have been a number of business blocks erected and large outlays of money for additions to others. The city has done a considerable amount of brick paving, curbing, sewerage, etc., the total of which amounts to the neat sum of \$172,590.51; but this sum is an insignificant one when compared with the amount expended by the Electric Street Car Company, which foots up \$348,875.41. The railroads have also contributed their mite in the way of improvements to the amount of \$128,000, while the gas and electric light and power companies have expended no less than \$250,000 in the extension of lines, new buildings, etc.

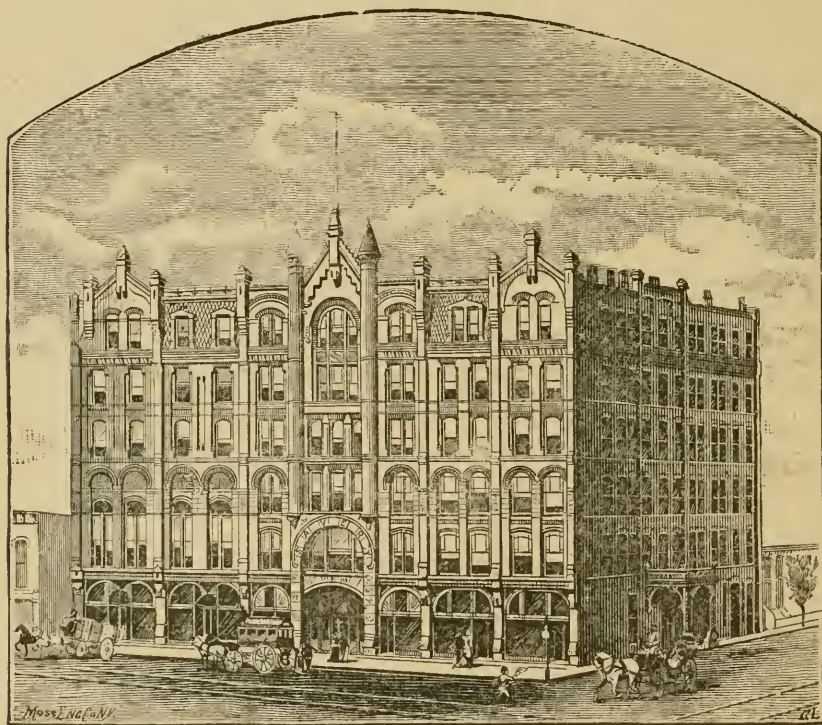
The water company has expended \$90,000; the telephone and telegraph companies, \$61,700; State Agricultural Society and exhibitors, \$27,000, and the zoological garden \$12,000. Among the building improvements we mention the Essex, the Marquette Electric Street Railway power house, the Des Moines Edison Company's new plant, the Des Moines Brick Manufacturing Company's new plant, the Goode, Turner, Kennedy, Percival & Hatton, Boyd and Clapp blocks.

The mentioning of the above improvements does not by any means complete the list, even in a rough way, of the expenditures of the money that has gone to the building up of the city during the past year.

Des Moines is a city of beautiful churches and in these she takes great pride; therefore, thousands of dollars have been spent for the erection of these buildings, viz., Central Church of Christ, University Place chapel, Sixth Presbyterian, St. John's Lutheran and parsonage, St. Ambrose, Church of the Visitation, Highland Park Presbyterian, Young Men's Christian Association building and others, amounting to \$325,000 and all completed during the year of 1890. Another item that helps to swell the list is that of colleges and schools and in this line a great amount of money has been expended.

The principal improvements under this head have been made by Highland Park College, Drake University, the districts of east and west Des Moines, but new school edifices have also been erected within the independent districts of Greenwood park, Park avenue, Lake park, North Des Moines and Capital park, these in the aggregate footing up over \$328,000. In speaking of the schools and the money being expended in the capital city in adding to and building up their educational institutions, they are doing that which is making Des Moines widely

known as an educational center and proving one of the greatest incentives in adding to their rapidly-growing population by bringing people from far and near who have children to educate.



SAVERY HOUSE, WEST LOCUST, CORNER FOURTH STREET.

This, added to the wide field presented for profitable investment, makes the capital city all the more desirable for a permanent residence.

#### MANUFACTURING AND NEW ENTERPRISES.

In the way of new industrial enterprises the past twelve months may be said to have been fruitful ones for this city, for



an exceedingly large number of accessions have been made to the already long list of manufactories, while those previously established have many of them been enlarged by the addition of machinery and the employment of a greater number of workmen; Des Moines has yet to learn of a single one that has fallen behind the previous year in the amount of output or dollars' worth of business done. In fact, there has been an increase of over \$2,000,000 in production and sales over the previous year, which is a showing of which any city might be proud. The many advantages of the capital city are becoming more widely known each year and as they become better known are bringing additions to their manufactories in the shape of new enterprises, more capital from abroad, more workmen, etc.

While some of the enterprises launched during the past year are not mammoth concerns, they are started under such circumstances that they are bound to grow from year to year, which is far preferable to embarking too largely and then having to shorten sail in order to weather the breeze, which is only too often the case, while in many instances the capital for the formation of these new industries has been furnished by their own citizens. The following additions have been made to the city's industrial interests since January 1, 1880:

Bales Automatic Car Coupler Company.  
Springer Automatic Car Coupler Company.  
Automatic Railway Signal Company.  
Merchants' Barb Wire Company.  
Capital City Oatmeal Company.  
Interstate Lock, Brick & Paving Company.  
Crabb Iron Fence Company.  
Central Brick & Tile Company.  
Iowa Trunk & Bag Manufacturing Company.  
Des Moines Glove Manufacturing Company.



Pearsall-Lyman Company—extracts, etc.  
Bachman's Yeast Manufacturing Company.  
National Novelty Company.  
Iowa Straw & Felt Hat Factory.  
Des Moines Water Power Electric Company.  
Des Moines Novelty Company.  
Des Moines Sanitary & Cremation Company.  
Des Moines Brick Manufacturing Company.  
Bromley Jewelry Manufacturing Company.  
Henshaw & Clark—agricultural steam boilers.  
Des Moines Yeast Manufacturing Company.  
Daisy Washing Machine Company.  
Iowa Rubber Stamp & Stencil Company.  
Alliance Binder Twine Company.  
Iowa Fruit Preserving Works.  
Capital City Fuel Gas Company.  
Des Moines Knitting Factory.  
United States Stock Feed Company.  
The Kratzer Carriage Company.  
Economic Gas Tip Company.  
William's Shirt Manufacturing Company.  
The Capilline Company.  
Dealers' Manufacturing & Jobbing Company.  
Morgan Well Auger Company.  
Des Moines Box Works.  
Ring, Mop & Wringer Company.  
Bristol Manufacturing Company.  
Hess Storage Battery Company.  
Begiven & Buttell Piano Factory.  
Iowa Machine, Novelty & Brass Works.  
Des Moines Beet Sugar & Preserving Company.  
Field Manufacturing Company.  
Early Bird Phosphate Company.  
Hawk-eye Wire & Carpet Stretcher Company.  
Standard Coal Company.  
Hoove Fence Loom Company.  
Springer Buckle Company.  
Railway Car Automatic Fire Extinguishing Company.

In addition to these there are three or four others that are just completing their organization, but who have not yet recorded their articles of corporation.

Heretofore, in order to do brick paving, the city has been obliged to procure the material in other markets, but during the past season two new plants—one of them the largest in the west—have been erected and put in operation. These are the Des Moines Brick Manufacturing Company and Central Brick & Tile Company plants, the first calling for an expenditure of \$100,000 and the latter of \$20,000. In addition to these the Merrill Brick Company and the Iowa Pipe & Tile Company are now turning out paving brick. No longer will the city be obliged to go away from home for material. The largest increase in manufacturing in any one line during the past year has been in pork-packing, which shows an increase of over \$500,000. The other more notable lines were confectionery, brick, linseed oil, proprietary medicines, soap, furniture and woolen goods.

#### THE JOBBING TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the capital city was never on a more substantial footing than at the present time and a larger volume of business has been transacted than ever before—\$4,000,000 more—while the increase has been more marked in some lines than in others. There is hardly a single branch of the jobbing trade that has not made a great advance in volume the past season. The wholesale firms are becoming more aggressive each year and pushing out farther in pursuit of trade and they are meeting with deserved success. Some of our large institutions now cover, with their traveling men, fully half of the states in the Union and are adding to this each successive year. Every year during the past decade has seen additions to the army of traveling men employed by the home houses of the capital city and last year was no exception to the rule, for there was quite an increase made by some of the old

houses, while the new ones added their quota to the already large number.

A large dry goods house and another oil tank company were added to the jobbing interests of the city during the spring and met with a much larger business than was expected. Present appearances would indicate the opening up of several new lines during the coming year and large additions will be made to those already represented.

#### THE RETAIL TRADE.

While the retail business of the city does not enter into the statistics as prepared by the commercial exchange, considerable attention has been paid to the subject while gathering up other branches of business. It is expressing it very mildly when we say that it is in a healthy condition, for with one accord the retail merchants proclaim that prices have been well sustained, collections have been fully up to the average—many report them better—and the amount of business has grown very perceptibly. There have been less failures in the capital city during the year than heretofore and those few who have been so unfortunate have been of that class whose suspension involved such small amounts as to receive hardly a passing notice.

#### THE COAL TRADE.

New mines have been operated and developed in the vicinity of the capital city with excellent profits, new houses have been built for the miners and improvements have been made to the amount of over \$100,000.

#### THE GRAIN BUSINESS.

Last year Iowa was blessed with the most bountiful crop of grain ever known and other states enjoyed like blessings to

a great degree, causing prices to drop so low that in the aggregate the money value of their crops was less than in several previous years and the grain firms, while handling thousands of bushels more grain, did but a very small percentage more of business than in 1888. The past year, while production has



CALLAHAN COLLEGE, WEST PLEASANT, CORNER ELEVENTH STREET,  
DES MOINES.

not been so abundant, values have advanced and a larger increase is shown in the volume of business transacted at this point. The increase this year is \$185,000 on a moderate crop as compared with \$25,000 increase last year with an immense production.

## STOCK YARDS BUSINESS.

The Union Stock Yards, which were established at the capital city some months ago, have had an increase of \$328,980 over the year 1889.

## THE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

As a general thing the companies engaged in this business in the capital city confine their risks to Iowa business and this is appreciated by our state people who place their insurance with them, and so, almost without exception, the home companies report a material increase during the year in the amount of premiums received, the increase for the fire companies alone showing \$109,011. The life companies of the city are growing right along from year to year and they have received \$110,116 more in premiums than in the preceding year. The one accident company has more than doubled its business and the live stock company shows a gain of \$12,000—about 20 per cent.

## THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS.

Des Moines is unquestionably the financial center of the greatest state in the Union and her banks are recognized all over the country for their soundness and stability, having been, without exception, from the very start managed by careful, conservative financiers, who are adding to their surplus every year. Their capital has been taken by home citizens, which makes it free from the entanglements quite frequently brought about by the fluctuations on Wall street.

During the recent troublesome times in many of our larger cities, these financial institutions have stood as firm as a rock, ready at all times to meet their engagements and not standing trembling and not knowing what a day may bring forth. Des



Moines has been virtually built up within herself and the money that has gone to make her improvements has been furnished by home men and not by eastern capitalists. So she is not heavily indebted to the east, as are many of our western cities, which makes her credit both at home and abroad far ahead of many of her neighbors. While at the present time there is a great scarcity in the money market all over the country, there is no city in the country that is as little affected by it as the city of Des Moines. During the past year two new financial institutions have been added, one a savings bank and the other a private bank. Besides these the many loan and trust companies are strong, well officered and doing a large and increasing business.

#### THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

If there is one thing more than another about the capital city on which she dotes it is her elegantly equipped street railway. There is no one thing connected with the city of Des Moines in which more energy and push have been displayed than that of the street railway during the past year. They have replaced the entire horse railway system that was in existence at the beginning of the year with electricity. This has not been accomplished by merely putting in electricity as a motive power, but the entire lines have been rebuilt with new steel rails, ties, etc., and equipped with new cars and in order to do this it was made necessary to erect a new power-house fully equipped with the latest improved machinery. In order to accomplish this one thing an outlay of no less than \$100,000 was demanded; it has been done and a finer or more complete power-house is not found in the country. In the rebuilding of the old lines and new extensions almost \$250,000

was expended, which has given employment to a small army of men the entire season. While it would seem that the field was pretty well covered already, we are informed that the company is not yet satisfied, nor will it be until Des Moines stands at the head of all cities of the country so far as the electric street railway is concerned; to this end it will expend a large sum of money the coming year.

Among the principal additions made to the system the past season have been the "Zoo.," Grand avenue, Ingersoll avenue, East Sixth street, Ninth street, cotton mill and fair ground lines. During the coming year the North Motor line will be changed to an electric line and the Sevastapool line built, with extensions on other lines whenever needed. A line to Easton place and Hyde Park is also among the probabilities.

#### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR 1890.

551 Private Residences, etc.....	\$1,713,080.00
18 Colleges, Schools, etc.....	328,118.00
11 Churches, etc.....	324,252.00
Total private improvements.....	\$2,365,450.00
Add general and public improvements.....	1,168,613.68
Total for 1890.....	\$3,534,663.68
Total number pieces of mail received for 1890.....	10,262,499
Total number of pieces of mail dispatched for 1890.....	12,067,966

#### PEOPLE EMPLOYED AND WAGES PAID.

The manufacturing industries, wholesale houses, insurance companies, clerks, accountants, mechanics, operators, typewriters show as to the numbers employed in the city as follows:

Traveling Salesmen.....	453
Accountants, Mechanics, etc. (male).....	5,439
Accountants, Typewriters, Operators, etc. (female).....	1,017
Total.....	6,909

The salaries and wages paid these employes aggregated the past year the sum of \$3,468,318.

The total transfers of real estate for the year 1890 show an increase in the volume of transactions over those of the previous year amounting to \$10,881,118.79.

#### REAL ESTATE MARKET.

During the past year real estate in the capital city has more than held its own, while the volume of transfers, the exact figures of which are given in another column, slightly exceeds that of the previous year. The sales made have been decidedly healthier, with much larger profits than for years past.

#### THE COMING YEAR—BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

Every indication goes to show that there will be a far greater amount of building done the coming season than for any like period in the history of Des Moines. This will not be confined merely to the erection of a great number of private dwellings, which will far outnumber those of the past year, but will embrace a large number of elegant and costly business blocks and factories, besides churches, educational buildings, etc. Already many plans and specifications have been made and adopted; some have progressed to that point where bids for construction have been asked for and in other cases contracts have already been let and materials secured. As a class the business blocks will be made larger, more ornate and far more costly than any heretofore erected in this or any other city of Iowa and will compare favorably with any in the west. There are several building projects being talked of at this time that have not yet reached that point where announcement can be made, but that they will soon take definite shape there is hardly a doubt.

In the way of public improvements much will be accomplished in the year to come, with the probability that it will exceed in amount that of any previous year. Now that brick pavement has been adopted for the streets, and it has been found that those of the home manufacture are of a superior kind, there is no reason why a vast amount of pavement should not be put in. It is very manifest that this will be done, for quite a number of streets have already been ordered paved and in some instances the contracts have been let, while the city council has already been petitioned for the paving of several others. The matter of curbing is not entirely dependent on the paving of streets, but where paving is ordered curbing has also to be done and in many instances curbing is ordered a year or more in advance.

Des Moines is far ahead of many larger cities in the amount of sewerage already done and there is no question that quite an amount will be put in this year. The contract for the erection of the magnificent new bridge over the Des Moines on Walnut street has been let by the board of public works and will add many thousands of dollars to the sum total of money expended by the city in the year to come. A new and commodious house for the use of the fire and police departments, near the city hall, will be built at a cost of \$10,000.

#### THE EQUITABLE BUILDING.

This magnificent structure, costing over \$500,000, is to be erected on the northwest corner of Sixth avenue and Locust street by the Equitable Life Association of New York. The building will be 66 by 132 feet, with the main entrance on Sixth avenue and will be eight full stories high besides the basement and constructed solely for an office building, fireproof

and modern in every respect. The first two stories will be constructed of the beautiful buff granite of New Hampshire, while the remainder will be built of buff pressed brick with



THE EQUITABLE BUILDING.

terra-cotta and stone trimmings. The basement, which will be twenty feet in height, will be devoted to safety deposit vaults, making the largest safety deposit vaults in the country. The main entrance will be of an imposing character, with one of the finest, architecturally considered, staircases to be found anywhere. The entrances, halls and vestibules will be finished in white marble

and one powerful freight and three rapid passenger elevators will be provided. The offices will be in suites, furnished with vaults and modern conveniences and provided with fireplaces and mantels throughout. The building will be lighted by electricity and an artesian well will supply the water. This building will be the finest in Iowa, except the capitol.

#### THE YOUNGERMAN BLOCK.

An elegant eight-story building will be erected the coming summer by Mr. Conrad Youngerman on the corner of Fifth



and Mulberry streets, calling for an outlay of \$250,000. The architects completed the plans and specifications for this costly edifice some time ago, since which Mr. Youngerman has been busily engaged in letting contracts for material, etc., much of which has already been secured. The present block, occupying the site of the new structure, will be torn down April 1 and



THE YOUNGERMAN BLOCK.

work will be pushed as fast as a regiment of workmen can do it until its completion, which will not be later than September 1 next. This imposing block will be 66 by 133 feet in size, of pressed rustic brick with Bedford stone trimmings and will contain 200 office rooms and fifty-five vaults. Two rapid passenger elevators will be put in to meet the wants of the block's occupants. The main entrance to the edifice will be on Fifth

street in the center of the block. It will be built in the most modern and approved style and contain all the conveniences to be found in any first-class office block.

#### A COLLEGE BUILDING.

Although the Highland Park College Company expended over \$214,000 during the past year in buildings, the attendance of students has so far exceeded their most sanguine expectations that they will be obliged to have more room at the beginning of the next school year and already they have decided to erect another large structure as a department building; it will cost fully \$50,000 and may reach a much larger amount.

#### ANOTHER COLLEGE BUILDING.

A large four-story building, 64 by 86 feet in size, to be known as Science Hall, will be erected by Drake University the coming spring and completed in time for the opening of the next college year. It will be of pressed brick, stone foundation and ornamented with slate roof and will cost \$40,000 when ready for occupancy. The gymnasium will occupy 36 by 60 feet and two stories in height and the remainder of the first two stories will be occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, alumni parlors and bath-rooms. The third story will be used for a laboratory and lecture room, while the fourth floor will be devoted to a museum and natural science room.

#### THE NEW SANITARIUM.

The Des Moines Sanitarium Company have had the plans and specifications for the new sanitarium gotten up by Foster & Liebbe, architects, and are closing the contract for the erection of a large, ornate and substantial main building and wing.

The main building will be 44 by 106 feet and four stories high, with a west wing 116 by 36 feet, three stories high. A large veranda sixteen feet in width will run around the entire fronts of both building and wing. The building is in close proximity to the famous Hyde Park mineral spring on the crest of a hill overlooking the state fair grounds and Factory flat, while to the west a fine view is obtained of a large portion of the city.

Elegant bath-rooms will be provided in abundance and everything done to make comfortable those who choose to avail themselves of its advantages. The cost of the main building and wing will be \$30,000 and in addition to this no less than \$20,000 will be expended in beautifying the grounds, constructing an artificial lake, etc.

#### THE EXPOSITION BUILDING.

Mr. J. F. Tierney, who recently purchased the exposition building, has decided to make some extensive improvements and attractions this year. The reconstruction of this building calls for a modern four-story and basement block. In order to do this the entire front walls on Walnut and Eighth streets will be taken down to the foundation and new and elegant fronts built. The Walnut street front will be divided into six store rooms with large plate-glass windows, modern entrances, etc. The facilities for reaching the upper floors will be by means of broad staircases opening on Eighth street and passenger elevators reached from the same street, while freight elevators will also be provided. The rooms all over the building will be provided with both hot and cold water. The reconstruction, as already mapped out, calls for an expenditure of \$40,000.

## THE NEW UNION DEPOT.

The Des Moines Union Railway Company have had plans prepared for a magnificent union depot facing on Cherry street and extending from Fifth to Ninth street. The structure is much like the union depot at Toledo, Ohio, and will cause an expenditure of \$300,000, while the yard work and double-track steel bridge across the Des Moines will bring the outlay close, if not quite up, to \$500,000. The main building will contain the passenger station proper, with the usual large waiting-rooms for ladies and gentlemen, the restaurant and dining halls, baggage and express rooms, etc., while the main offices of the Des Moines Union Railway Company and such other roads as require office room will be located on the second floor. The projected depot building will be one of the largest to be found west of Chicago, while for convenience of access to all parts of the city no better site could be selected.

## THE ROACH BLOCK.

A few months since Mr. Thomas Roach of Ft. Worth, Tex., purchased the Foster block on Walnut street, together with the land lying north of the same, running to the alley. His faith in Des Moines has become so strong that he will erect a modern three-story and basement double-front store block, facing on Ninth street.

The structure will be of beautiful design, in pressed brick with stone trimmings and work has commenced thereon.

## OTHER BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.

Lowry W. Goode of this city contemplates the expending of at least \$200,000 in new buildings during the year 1891. In all probability another large business block will be erected and

quite a number of cottages built at Central place, Bate's addition, etc. The Hyde Park Investment Company will build six large dwelling-houses at Hyde Park the coming season, which will average \$4,000 each. The Des Moines Sanitarium Company will erect three cottages at a cost of \$2,000 each on the sanitarium grounds.

There seems to be no doubt but that Mr. Peet, who expended about \$25,000 the past year in laying out streets, grading lots, etc., on his large tract lying just west of Central place, will put up quite a large number of residences during the spring and summer. Arrangements have been about completed for the erection of three new churches and a large amount of money will also be expended by the school board in the erection and betterment of buildings, which will be found necessary by the rapid growth of the city, as shown by the late school census, which shows Des Moines to be about two-fifths larger than any other city in the state.

During the coming year the Des Moines Water Power Electric Company will erect a large factory building near the power-house, where room and power can be secured by such manufacturers as choose to occupy it. This will be a great boon to many small industries that do not wish to invest capital in the erection of factory buildings of their own.

#### NEW MANUFACTORIES FOR 1891.

The outlook for the addition of many new manufacturing industries in the coming months could hardly be brighter than it is at present. Several new ones have already completed their arrangements for locating here, some are negotiating for locations and a great number are investigating the city's advantages, so far as their several lines of business are concerned.



This is manifest by the vast number of inquiries being received daily by the *Commercial Exchange*, and the correspondence in the main is from those manufacturers who have been successful heretofore and have ample capital to carry on this business rather than from so-called adventurers who are seeking a large bonus for some industry which is found to fail as soon as the bonus is used up, even if it should survive that length of time. Many of these factories seeking a change of location have their homes in the far east, while their trade, or the great bulk of it, is in the west and, with equal, or nearly equal, advantages presented by the great and growing west, they are obliged to occupy the field or suffer a diminution of business by its occupation by others. Many are forced to a change by the increased cost of production in the way of fuel, the working out of clay banks, sand, etc., from which they have obtained their supplies, while there are others now located in overcrowded districts where the production far exceeds the demand and they are at all times in peril from strikes.

#### FUEL GAS PLANT.

The Capital City Gas Light Company during the past year purchased a block or more of ground south of their present site and began work on their new fuel gas plant, putting in a holder tank, which is a fine piece of masonry, using 700,000 brick and expending the sum of \$40,000. The holder will have a capacity of 300,000 cubic feet and will be the largest in the country and the buildings about five times as large as the present plant of the company—the purifying house, the buildings for the condensers and the scrubbers for removing the sulphur, injurious gases and tarry vapors, generating building and suitable ones for all the machinery necessary. Mechanical

appliances will be put in the new works for all the material used in the manufacture of fuel gas. The plans are so arranged that when the coal has been once put into the house from the cars the furnaces and retorts can be filled without handling the coal over again. This will be strictly a fuel gas plant, the illuminating gas for the city being manufactured at the present works. Nothing will be left undone to make it one of the most complete plants to be found anywhere. Fully \$500,000 will be used in the construction and equipment of these new works and the total sum may even exceed this amount.

#### BEET SUGAR FACTORY.

The beet sugar and preserving company that was organized some time ago have already commenced operations as far as the preserving department of the works is concerned and are turning out about three tons of preserves, jellies, etc., daily. About June 1 the machinery will all be in place for the manufacture of starch and syrups and the remainder of the machinery for the production of beet sugar will be ready for operation by October 1, when the beets will be in condition to work. One thousand or more acres of beets will be planted each year.

#### COLD STORAGE HOUSE.

Messrs. Williams & Powell will build at an early date a cold storage plant on the bank of the river at Factory flat, with a capacity of 1,000 head of cattle. The main object is to furnish the citizens with better meat during the hot weather. They will slaughter and hold the meat in cold storage until it is thoroughly ripened and Des Moines will then be able to secure as good meat as can be found in any of the markets of the world. This will call for an investment of \$20,000 or more.

## A HOSIERY MILL.

We are informed by citizens of this city that early in the year there will be put in operation a mill for the knitting of all kinds of hosiery, both for women and children. The mill will be equipped with the very latest and most modern appliances for the production of this line of goods.

## THE STANDARD COAL COMPANY.

The Standard Coal Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000, has already been formed and filed articles of incorporation. The company is composed entirely of eastern capitalists and they will engage extensively in the manufacture of briquettes in this city. These briquettes are manufactured from coal slack in combination with oil and pressed into bricks, which make them exceedingly handy for the furnace, etc., and it is claimed that they can be sold at a very low price, while as fuel they are equal to the very best lump coal. Quite an amount of machinery will be used by this new plant and it will furnish employment to a large force of workmen.

The Empire Steam Gauge Company, with a capital of \$150,000, is another eastern company that has been organized and filed articles of incorporation to manufacture in Des Moines steam gauges and other articles on a large scale. The capital employed in this industry is all controlled by wealthy men in Massachusetts and they selected Des Moines on account of its cheap fuel and unsurpassed shipping facilities.

And still another new industry, composed almost exclusively of Massachusetts men and capital, has filed articles of incorporation with Des Moines—the Field Manufacturing Company. This industry has a capital of \$150,000 and will manufacture an extensive line of novelties such as are

used in every family and will push the business in every direction.

Among the many new industries looking up the advisability of locating their plants in this city may be mentioned three glass factories for the manufacture of bottles, both flint and green; a window-glass factory, a fruit jar factory, a rolling mill for the manufacture of merchant iron and now employing about 300 hands, a corset factory, an overall factory, which is one of the largest in the Union; a pump factory, hosiery and underwear mill, a cap factory, a pottery for the manufacture of fire clay and cooking utensils; one for the making of Rockingham and yellow ware, a manufactory of patented household specialties and a large flouring mill.

#### NEW RAILROADS.

Two new railroads will be added during the year to Des Moines' railway system, thus giving the city no less than nineteen roads and there is also a rumor in the air that there may be a third one. Both of the roads that are virtually assured will be of great benefit to the city, opening up a section of country that has heretofore been closed on account of its inaccessibility in the way of shipment.

A number of financial institutions will be added during the year and the great bulk of the capital composing them will be furnished by residents of the eastern states. One of these new institutions is the Marquardt Savings bank, which has opened its doors in its handsome new quarters on the corner of Locust and Fifth streets. A national bank with a paid-up capital of \$500,000 is said to be assured, the entire amount being furnished by New York financiers. Two other financial organizations have begun operations, the Union

Redemption & Bond Association and Equitable Co-operative Syndicate, both composed of Massachusetts capitalists and organized for the investment of eastern capital in this section.

Taken all in all, the future prospects for this city are far better than any of the many bright years that have passed into history. Many of the factories of this city are now behind with their orders and all are well stocked with them. The jobbers and merchants report growing business. Real estate men are well satisfied with the situation. Bankers are predicting better times in monetary affairs. Colleges are growing in reputation and bringing still larger numbers of students to the city and there is no reason why the whole state of Iowa should not rejoice at the present outlook which her beautiful capital city bears to-day. Northeast and central Iowa are teeming with beautiful agricultural lands and mineral wealth and those seeking homes in the great west should give these regions a personal inspection.



## CONCLUSION.

### IOWA—ITS AGRICULTURAL ADVANTAGES AND INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRATION.

Iowa's sudden growth in population and solid distinctive wealth is rarely equaled in new agricultural settlements and has but few parallels in the histories of the states. Less than half a century ago civilization had hardly planted its aggressive foot within her border and the war-whoop of the savage echoed and re-echoed over her plains and hills. Her unbroken wilderness was rich and beautiful, but how lone and limitless! No plow had broken the sod, not a mill dam interrupted the murmur of her untamed streams in their onward flow to the gulf and no white man's home adorned a spot of her domain to mark the settled presence of civilization. All was in a state of nature; all was new and undeveloped. But what a change has been and is now going on! She is fast passing, she is honorably and safely passing, to the high destiny that awaits her coming to crown her with success.

On July 4, 1838, with a population of 22,859, by an act of congress approved June 12, 1838, Iowa was organized into a territory and in 1846, by an act of congress approved March 3, 1845, it was admitted into the Union as a state. According to the state census of 1867 it numbered 902,040 inhabitants, with a property valuation of \$256,517,184. In 1880 it was the twenty-eighth in population of the United States and territories,

in 1850 it was the twenty-seventh and in 1860 it was only the twentieth.

Thirty-five years ago not a railroad threaded its way across her beauty, not a locomotive bluffed an Iowa breeze and not a mile of rail guided the wheels of a speeding train over a foot of Iowa soil. Now more than 3,000 miles check her surface and answer to the call of business and pleasure, bending with the surplus products of her fertility and the precious freight of life, of beauty and of interest. In 1885, according to the state census, 100,297,559 bushels of grain answered to the demand of her productive industry.

But Iowa represents more than this—something higher and nobler and better than material wealth and physical greatness alone. All her great interests are keeping step with the sure and vigorous tread of modern progress.

As necessary as they are to pecuniary prosperity and as acceptable as they are to our desires, it is not the depth or richness of her soil, it is not her great mineral resources, it is not her meandering streams flowing gracefully to the support of the Father of Waters in its unceasing tribute to the main, nor her landscape beauty, boundless and romantic; neither is it her prairie grandeur, with its woodland relief stretching as far as the eye can reach, that fills the soul and calls forth the deepest heart-springs of local pride and attachment. More beautiful, more transcendently winning than these, is her honorable growth and her great social development, that enchain the better feelings. Her high religious tone and progressive ideas cast about her an enchantment most pleasing and acceptable.

“Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.” How often I have read and re-read that comprehensive motto and compared it with Iowa’s history and standing. It belongs

to her in more than a single sense. She has already won it. It is hers from merit no less than by adoption. An unswerving devotion to its principles has been vindicated by her civil career and nobly carried out on heroic battlefields. Does not its sentiment shine forth in her educational system? Does not its spirit pervade her code of laws and flow as the vital current in every vein of her organism?

We like Iowa and her go-ahead spirit. We are proud of her character, proud of her martial record and proud of her constitutional guaranties and personal liberty. Yet at times we have allowed our mind to wander to other states and other countries in search of unalloyed perfection for full contentment. We have studied their geography, read their history and observed their progress, but from their geography, from their history and from their progress we have gladly turned back to our standard Iowa, relieved of discontent, with no diminished confidence in her present greatness or shadowed hopes of her future, but with renewed pride and satisfaction. Yes; to the proud commonwealth of Iowa, so vast in her agricultural resources and facilities, so progressive in her public improvements, so pre-eminently flattering in her public school system, so comprehensive and liberal in her benevolent and reformatory enterprises and withal so loyal in her attachment to the Federal constitution.

As important as is the place she now holds in the nation, as lofty as soars her youthful fame, if the future but unfolds the promising present she is only in the bud of her greatness, power and wealth and has never beheld the acme of her possibilities. She is checked for higher purpose and greater attainments. She holds the essential elements of a durable prosperity and is not going to stand still, neither is she willing to loiter

on the roadside—to the front. She is rising on the wings of development; she is on board the excelsior train: the steam is already up; the sound of the whistle has gone forth; the wheels are in motion, and no talk, no rivalry, no counter interest can keep her back.

Iowa is a state of the first magnitude and capable of sustaining a population of the most dense order. In extent of territory she is an empire by herself, containing 50,914 square miles, comprising an uncommon share of choice grazing and plow land. She presents a wide range of latitude, varying considerably in climate, thus opening an ample as well as inviting field in which the overflowing fullness of other communities may suit themselves.

Her citizens will never be restricted to any one branch of business from necessity. Nature has lavishly bestowed upon her the elements of a happily diversified industry suited to the wants of a widespread people. Behold her coal fields and gypsum beds, her lime, her building stone, etc., her water power and great agricultural possibilities. To those in search of new homes let me say, come to Iowa; come where the manly industries are respected; come where agriculture, manufactures and mechanics are fundamental sources of true personal independence and which confer grandeur, power and wealth upon nations are not held in reproach by a perverted public sentiment and help to keep them respected; come to its broad expanse and reap the fruit of its generous soil.

If you seek prosperity; if you seek enjoyment; if you would meet with a cordial welcome, come. The culture, wealth and enterprise of the world are now concentrating near our parallel of latitude, proving that cotton is no longer king, nor the stately forests of the north alone proffer inviting homes

for the enterprising, cultivated race. With such convictions, most heartily do we invite millions to these privileges, to the goodly land which remaineth to be possessed.

We owe much to the "fatherland" and to the older states. Why? Because the graves of our forefathers are there. Those low, rude school-houses (we fear, too, the high torturing backs), the old apple orchard with the sweet associations of good cider, perchance the smarting ones of the sprouts. Those very glare old hillsides where so many pleasant moonlit evenings were passed and the groves which bent over us as blessings, with joys or sighs, responsive to the emotions of the heart. The nuptial ceremonies, kitchen plays, hearthstone stories and hallowed church services carry us back to grave old scenes and associations which link us in affectionate remembrance to the past as the friend of our youth and now a partial education, but more honored in stimulating invention and enterprise than in molding the mind to contentment without improvement.

No ragged mountain ranges north or south, east or west, present impassable barriers or necessitate circuitous, out-of-the-way routes for artificial channels of trade, or cut off intercourse with neighboring states and interrupt direct relations with the choicest markets in the world.

Her comparative proximity to the Pacific states is most favorable and by reason of her great network of railroads commercial relations have been inaugurated and it has become one of the most accessible states in the Union. Being the nearest extensive agricultural district east of the Rocky mountains, evidently it will become the chief furnishing state and have the mining trade of the west. It is fast having the lumber trade of the pine regions on the north, the plantation trade of the sunny south and the present eastern market all in easy reach.



Who that has studied the geography of our country and observes the spread of population and the progress of railroads can fail to see in Iowa's locality the future business and political center of that great nation which is giving home, security and freedom to over 60,000,000 people, acknowledging the same laws and having the same banner.

It belongs to an agricultural region that is fast beckoning the seat of empire westward; from the rising toward the setting sun; from the Atlantic toward the Pacific ocean, and that holds not only present but increasing and enduring advantages and allurements. It is on the great main line from the emporium of the populous east to the wilderness and gold region of the distant west. It has been destined to furnish the right of way across its vast territory and the main trunk of our country's immense railway system witnesses the passage of common travel and extensive commerce between the most important portions of the civilized world.

In this great central locality and desirable spot, in the great valley and near the Father of Waters, the seat of empire takes its way and the chaos of a mighty world is rounding into form.

JUL 3 1902









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